NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code: Risk-Based Approach to Medical Gas, Electrical, and Fire Systems

THE DIRECT ANSWER

NFPA 99, Health Care Facilities Code, assigns risk categories to healthcare spaces and sets minimum performance for medical gas and vacuum, electrical and emergency power, fire alarm interfaces, HVAC where referenced, and related utilities. For facility managers, compliance is less about memorizing every pipe size and more about proving continuous system performance, documented testing, and alignment with the NFPA edition your state, CMS, and accreditor actually enforce—often alongside CMS Conditions of Participation and, for Joint Commission hospitals, the 2026 Physical Environment chapter under Accreditation 360.

WHAT NFPA 99 COVERS (AND WHAT IT DOES NOT)

- NFPA 99 sits next to NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, not in place of it. NFPA 101 drives egress, compartmentation, and fire barriers. NFPA 99 drives the systems that keep clinical areas functioning when something fails: oxygen and medical air pressure, suction.

MEDICAL GAS AND VACUUM

- Chapter 5 remains the operational core for piped medical gas and vacuum. Systems are expected to run continuously in Category 1 spaces; outages are treated as patient safety events, not maintenance inconveniences.

FIELD QUESTION

Where does this come from?

This sheet distills the full Healthcare Facility Hub article linked below, which carries the complete text, references, and sourcing.

From Healthcare Facility Hub - free, like everything on the site. The full article is at the link below.

Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.