



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Reporting SNF Bed Licenses by Class of Room Updated September 9, 2022



**This FAQ document answers frequently asked questions on reporting SNF bed licenses by class of room for determining Medicaid facility-specific Per Bed Values:**

- This FAQ is to answer questions not addressed in the Form or Instructions.
- We will update this FAQ and add new questions and answers as needed.

**Please review the revised Instructions – dated August 25, 2022 – which include clarifications on two other questions we have received (highlighted in yellow on pages 2 and 4 of the revised Instructions).**

**Please email any questions to AHCA at [SNFRoomClass@arhealthcare.com](mailto:SNFRoomClass@arhealthcare.com).**

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### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (Most Recent Question is Listed First):**

#### **1. Classification of Rooms temporarily Used for Another Purpose or Undergoing Renovations**

##### **Questions:**

If a room area is currently used for another purpose (such as an office, therapy room, or storage room), may it be considered a Class A or Class B room?

If a room is currently undergoing renovations, may it be considered a Class A or Class B room?

##### **Answer:**

To be considered a Class A or Class B resident room, a room must be one of the following:

1. Set up and operational for immediate use as a resident room, including required bathroom facilities.
2. If temporarily used for another purpose (such as an office, therapy room, or storage room), set up and operational within 24 hours for use as a resident room, including required bathroom facilities.
3. Undergoing renovations to the room as part of a DHS-approved renovation plan, and the room is a resident room under the plan.



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For this purpose, “set up and operational” means a room and attached bathroom facilities have all of the following needed for occupancy and use by a resident:

- (a) All beds, mattresses, furnishings, and fixtures.
- (b) Electrical service and water/wastewater service.
- (c) Fully functional lighting, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and fire protection systems.
- (d) Necessary structural features (e.g., doors, flooring, window(s), and walls).
- (e) Necessary patient safety and communications features.
- (f) Underdone necessary cleaning and disinfection.
- (g) Otherwise meets all DHS and CMS standards for a resident room and resident bathroom.

Any space that is not available immediately or within 24 hours or part of an approved renovation plan may not be considered a Class A or Class B room.

Except as part of a DHS-approved renovation plan, any room (including the attached bathroom) requiring any construction, electrical, or plumbing-related work (cannot be readied in 24 hours) is not a Class A or Class B room.

### **2. Availability of Class A and Class B Rooms for Inspection**

#### **Question:**

To be counted as a Class A or Class B room, must the room and associated attached bathroom facilities be available for inspection by DHS surveyors, DHS auditors, or the licensed architect?

#### **Answer:**

Yes. Any room (including associated bathroom facilities) that a SNF reports as a Class A or Class B room must be readily available for inspection by DHS surveyors, DHS auditors, and the licensed architect.



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### 3. Meaning of “Common Room”

#### Question:

What is meant by a “common room”? Specifically, the Instructions refer to a common room:

On Page 4, under *Criteria for Attached Bathrooms for Each Class A and Class B Room*:

“The attached bathroom must not be resident-accessible through a hallway or a common room.”

On Page 5, under examples where Class C applies:

“A Class C room is any resident room where the room’s resident(s) must rely on a hallway-connected, common room connected, or any other type of communal bathroom for their regular, unassisted toileting needs.”

“A Class C room is any resident room with an attached bathroom that is incomplete (e.g., no sink or toilet), inaccessible, shared with two or more resident rooms, or directly accessible by other residents from the hallway or a common room.”

#### Answer:

For purposes of the room classifications and the new Per Bed Value process, “common room” is meant to mean any room or area of the building open to all residents or staff of the building, such as central dining rooms, recreational or activity rooms, central lounge areas, communal or public restroom, public reception areas, staff lounge areas, utility rooms, and office areas.

Some facilities have private, single-occupancy or semi-private, double-occupancy rooms organized as a suite, with, for example, adjoining bedrooms, a small den or TV room, and a bathroom. Small adjoining rooms intended for the private use of the residents in such a private or semi-private suite are not considered common rooms.

### 4. Resident Rooms with Attached Toilet-Only Bathroom and a Separate Sink and Mirror in the Resident Bedroom

#### Question:

Will a facility meet the attached bathroom requirement for a Class A or Class B room if:

1. The required toilet is in the attached bathroom (i.e., a toilet-only attached bathroom); and



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2. The required sink and mirror are provided in each resident room (i.e., a separate sink and mirror are in each resident room instead of in the attached room containing the toilet).

This is one of the configurations used by some SNFs to provide bathroom facilities for individual Class A and Class B rooms and ensure space for residents (a large portion of whom are reliant on wheelchairs or walkers) to maneuver safely (safe mobility with or without assistance) and conveniently use the toilet and sink when needed. It meets current DHS and CMS standards.

### **Answer:**

Yes. The attached bathroom standard for a Class A and Class B room would be met by having the following:

1. An attached toilet-only room (either private to the Class A or Class B room or shared with only one adjacent Class A or Class B room), and
2. A separate sink and mirror are in each Class A and Class B resident room.

For a room to qualify as a Class A or Class B room with the alternative bathroom facilities configuration described in the above question:

- The attached toilet-only bathroom must be attached to a maximum of two adjacent Class A or Class B resident rooms (i.e., serve a maximum of four residents).
- If an attached toilet-only bathroom serves a Class A or Class B room, each resident room must have its own sink and mirror. That sink and mirror are for the use of the individual(s) occupying the room and are not intended to be shared with any other resident room.
- A room is not a Class A or Class B room if the attached toilet-only bathroom or the sink in the resident room is directly accessible for use by other building residents through a hallway or common room.

This is consistent with the description of attached bathrooms in the Instructions, except that in this alternative configuration, a separate sink and mirror are in each Class A or Class B room and not in the attached bathroom (which in this alternative is an attached toilet-only room).

Please ask the licensed architect working with you to document the type of bathroom facilities configurations applicable to your facility's Class A and Class B rooms. Specifically, the number of Class A and Class B rooms with attached bathrooms as described in the Instructions and the number with



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the alternative bathroom facilities configuration described in this FAQ. Alternatively, this may be done through annotated floor plans or diagrams showing room types and bathroom facilities.

As always, all existing DHS and CMS regulatory standards continue to apply.