



Department
of Health

Primary Care Clinics: Physical Plant Standards

Primary Care Clinics: Issue and Response

Article 28 clinics, particularly those in underserved communities, often cite physical plant standards as a barrier to providing primary care services, including integrated services.

In response, and to increase access to care, DOH drafted guidelines that describe two primary care clinic classification categories designed to provide direction related to minimum physical environment standards.

New Primary Care Clinic Classification Guidelines

- Meet the needs and concerns of primary care providers
- Consider the limited size and scope of services provided
- Ensure quality of care and patient safety in all settings
- Improve access to primary care
- Support integrated care
- Do not require statutory or regulatory waivers

Article 28 Physical Plant Standards

NYCRR, Title 10, Parts 711, 712, 713, 715 and 716, define the architectural, engineering, equipment, construction and other physical environment standards for all health facilities subject to Department of Health oversight pursuant to Public Health Law (PHL) Article 28.

Proposed Primary Care Clinic Physical Plant Standards

Accessory Care Clinics (Level 1) are meant to supplement an existing behavioral health clinic (Article 31), substance abuse clinic (Article 32), or otherwise be incidental to the main occupancy use of the facility. Accessory Care Clinics are limited to a maximum of three rooms in total, and total rooms may be in any combination of physical examination rooms and/or dental examination rooms.

Limited Care Clinics (Level 2) provide physical health services and may be in combination with behavioral health and/or dental services. Maximum of six rooms in total, and the combination of room types cannot exceed three physical examination rooms, three dental examination rooms, and/or three consultation rooms.