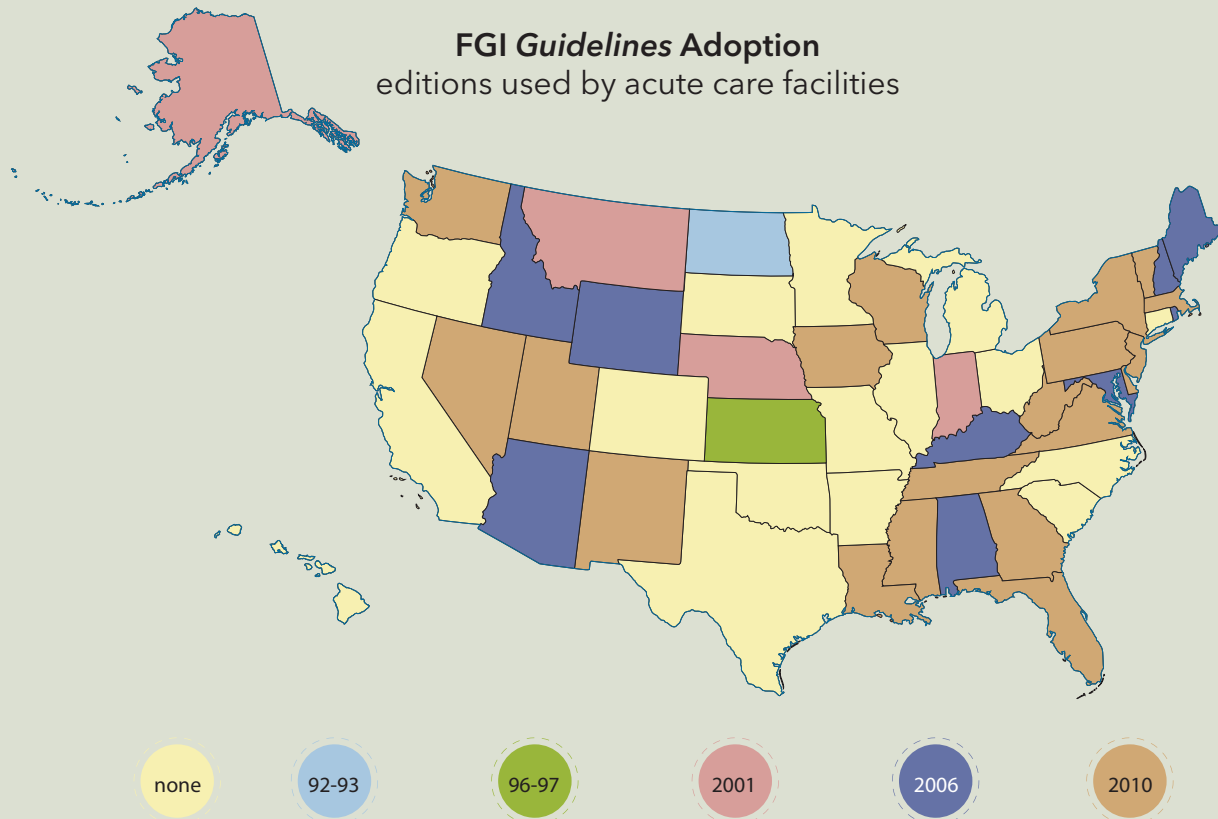


Adopting the FGI Guidelines for Hospitals

The Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) updates the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities* every four years, creating a document used by states and federal agencies to regulate health care facility design and construction. However, some states have not yet adopted the *Guidelines* and others require compliance with old editions of the document. This patchwork of varied, outdated applications of the *Guidelines* can lead to wasted hospital resources that could otherwise go toward patient care.



What is the FGI Guidelines document?

The FGI *Guidelines* document provides minimum requirements for designing and building new hospitals and other health care facilities. The document is updated every four years by a multi-disciplinary group of more than 120 doctors, nurses, health care administrators, architects, engineers, and state authorities having jurisdiction. The *Guidelines* document provides minimum standards for creating an appropriate health care environment that supports patient and staff safety.

Why should all states adopt the Guidelines?

Most states already adopt some form of the *Guidelines*, but it's important that all states adopt the document. This would provide efficiencies for hospitals, designers, and constructors who plan and build facilities in multiple states. More importantly, it would ensure that all new U.S. health care facilities meet these important minimum requirements.

Why should states require the latest edition of the Guidelines?

Outdated requirements pose problems for hospitals. They do not reflect the latest developments in the quickly advancing medical field, and they can lead to valuable health care resources being spent on requirements that have changed in newer editions. By adopting the latest codes and standards, authorities regulating hospitals can ensure a safe environment without unnecessarily diminishing scarce health care resources.

How can you get involved?

Health care facility managers should talk to their hospital leaders about supporting the effort to adopt the latest edition of the *Guidelines* in every state. Hospital leaders, state authorities regulating hospitals, and elected representatives can contact ASHE for more information on this important issue.

For more information, contact ASHE Director of Codes and Standards Chad Beebe, AIA, SASHE, at cbeebe@aha.org or 312-422-3824.