

**Current Standards for Emergency Department Space**

**(14) Emergency Department Treatment Capacity and Space.**

(a) An applicant proposing a new or expanded emergency department shall classify service as low range or high range based on the parameters in the most recent edition of *Emergency Department Design: A Practical Guide to Planning for the Future* from the American College of Emergency Physicians. The number of emergency department treatment spaces and the departmental space proposed by the applicant shall be consistent with the range set forth in the most recent edition of the American College of Emergency Physicians

*Emergency Department Design: A Practical Guide to Planning for the Future*, given the classification of the emergency department as low or high range and the projected emergency department visit volume.

(b) In developing projections of emergency department visit volume, the applicant shall consider, at a minimum:

(i) The existing and projected primary service areas of the hospital, historic trends in emergency department utilization at the hospital, and the number of hospital emergency department service providers in the applicant hospital's primary service areas;

(ii) The number of uninsured, underinsured, indigent, and otherwise underserved patients in the applicant's primary service area and the impact of these patient groups on emergency department use;

(iii) Any demographic or health service utilization data and/or

analyses that support the need for the proposed project;

(iv) The impact of efforts the applicant has made or will make to divert non-emergency cases from its emergency department to more appropriate primary care or urgent care settings; and

(v) Any other relevant information on the unmet need for emergency department or urgent care services in the service area.

**(15) Emergency Department Expansion.**

A hospital proposing expansion of emergency department treatment capacity shall demonstrate that it has made appropriate efforts, consistent with federal and state law, to maximize effective use of existing capacity for emergent medical needs and has appropriately

integrated emergency department planning with planning for bed capacity, and diagnostic and treatment service capacity. At a minimum:

(a) The applicant hospital must demonstrate that, in cooperation with its medical staff, it has attempted to reduce use of its emergency department for non-emergency medical care. This demonstration shall, at a minimum, address the feasibility of reducing or redirecting patients with non-emergent illnesses, injuries, and conditions, to lower cost alternative facilities or programs;

(b) The applicant hospital must demonstrate that it has effectively managed its existing emergency department treatment capacity to maximize use; and

(c) The applicant hospital must demonstrate that it has considered the need for bed and other facility and system capacity that will be affected by greater volumes of emergency department patients.