K 072  NS=F  NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE STANDARD

Means of egress are continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency. No furnishings, decorations, or other objects obstruct exits, access to, egress from, or visibility of exits. 7.1.10

This STANDARD is not met as evidenced by:
Based on observation the facility failed to assure the means of egress was continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergencies.

The findings included:

Observation on March 14, 2011 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. revealed the corridors throughout the facility were obstructed in width by clean linen carts, soiled linen containers, isolation stands, computer carts and computer drop down units with a chair.

1. Nursing staff was immediately instructed on March 14th, that an unobstructed pathway had to be maintained throughout each corridor in the facility for full instant use in case of a fire or other emergency, which includes the computer drop down stations not left down when unoccupied.

2. The obstructions preventing a continuous means of egress have been identified. Nursing staff has been instructed by the Nurse Educator/Assistant Director of Nursing beginning on March 14th on maintaining an unobstructed pathway throughout each corridor in the facility. The nursing staff who were not present will be instructed by the Nurse Educator/Assistant Director of Nursing within the next 2 weeks. During new hire orientation, the Nurse Educator will ensure the nursing staff on maintaining an unobstructed continuous means of egress.

3. The corridors throughout the facility will be monitored weekly by the Administrator/Maintenance Director to determine a means of egress is continuously maintained free of obstructions or impediments for full instant use in case of fire or other emergency. Spring loaded hinges will be applied to all computer drop down desks in order for them to automatically close when not in use.

4. To ensure that the deficient practice will not recur, the Administrator/Maintenance Director will monitor the corridors for obstructions. If any obstructions are found, the observing Manager will correct the nursing staff at that time and report the findings at the monthly Quality Assurance meetings until the deficient practice is determined to be of an acceptable quality.