

## ANTE ROOM REQUIREMENTS

**1. ISSUE:** The current **VA HVAC Design Manual For New, Replacement, Addition, and Renovation of Existing VA Facilities**, dated March 2011, Page 6-90; PATIENT EXAMINATION, TREATMENT, AND PROCEDURE ROOMS - ROOM DATA SHEET; Note 2 Ante Room states following:

*“Per ASHRAE Standard 170 and the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI), use of an Ante Room is mandated only for Combination AII/PE, where the patient requires a protective environment and also has an airborne infectious disease. However, this manual highly recommends that ALL isolation rooms are equipped with Ante Rooms”.*

This statement incorrectly states that ALL isolation rooms should be equipped with an Ante Room which is too broad of a statement. Further clarification is necessary to better define the VA Standard for provision of Ante Rooms.

**2. BACKGROUND:** Facilities Standards Service and the Veterans Health Administration have collaboratively reviewed the historical effectiveness and recent advances and requirements for isolation rooms. In order to better protect the health of our nation’s Veterans, visitors, and staff, the provision of Ante Rooms is necessary in enabling and maintaining proper Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) and Protective Environment (PE) room pressurizations with respect to adjacent spaces.

**3. REQUIREMENT:** Design teams working on VA projects which include one or more airborne infection isolation rooms shall provide each AIIR and PE room with an Ante Room meeting established space design requirements. When in use, Ante Rooms shall meet the following ventilation related requirements:

- a) Minimum of 10 air changes per hour (ACH) with 100% exhaust
- b) Room exhaust air shall pass through HEPA filter(s)
- c) Maintain a minimum of 0.01in (2.5 Pa) pressure differential with both the corridor and the AIIR and PE room
- d) Ante Room shall have a negative pressure differential to the corridor
- e) Ante Room shall have a positive pressure differential to a negative pressure AIIR
- f) Ante Room shall have a negative pressure differential to a positive pressure PE room
- g) Provide local visual devices (electronic or mechanical) that indicate compliance with required pressure differentials

h) Provide remote alarming devices that indicate loss of required pressure differentials at staffed Nursing Station and at building control center monitored 24/7.

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