

## INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2002 - 07

To: Licensed Architects  
Licensed Engineers  
Licensed Sprinkler Contractors  
Licensed Fire Alarm Contractors  
Licensed Fire Suppression Contractors  
Felicia Cooper, Administrator - Inspections  
Stephen Gogreve, Manager  
Boyd Petty, Manager  
Pat Day, Supervisor of Health Care Inspections  
Plan Review Staff

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect  
Jean Carter, Architect Supervisor  
Fidel Fremin, Architect Supervisor  
Cynthia Obier, Architect Supervisor  
Henry Reed, Architect Supervisor

Approved: Mark Gates,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Date: April 18, 2002

Re: **Sleep Labs, Sleep Disorder Clinics and similar facilities**

### HISTORY

Sleep laboratories, sleep disorder clinics and other similar facilities are typically characterized by the following criteria;

- Sleeping areas are furnished where patients are closely monitored, either directly or indirectly, and sleep patterns are recorded for analysis of sleep disorders during an outpatient type session
- The patients are ambulatory and fully capable of self preservation when they are in a conscious state
- The patients are required to sleep for a typical adult sleep period in order to perform a proper diagnosis
- Supervision of sleeping patients is provided by responsible staff trained to provide assistance in evacuating or relocating the patients during an emergency condition

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Historically, this office has evaluated such facilities as "Board and Care Occupancies" based on the level of care provided to patients undergoing sleep disorder diagnosis. Previous code editions allowed this arrangement without major life safety issues.

Due to the more stringent requirements imposed on Board and Care facilities by the currently adopted Life Safety Code, 2000 edition, this office hereby determines that sleep labs, sleep disorder clinics, and similar facilities shall now be evaluated as "Ambulatory Health Care Occupancies." That occupancy classification appears to lend itself to a more lenient application of the Life Safety Code while providing a reasonable degree of occupant protection.

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