FMS.34 There is a periodic preventive maintenance plan for heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning.

FMS.34.1 There is a periodic preventive maintenance (PPM) plan for heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) that is supported by trained and specialized staff/contractor.

FMS.34.2 The HVAC maintenance records are maintained.

FMS.34.3 The HVAC is maintained to control the air quality by:

FMS.34.3.1 Cleaning /replacement of filters.

FMS.34.3.2 Cleaning of diffuser.

FMS.34.3.3 Cleaning of ducts.

FMS.34.4 HEPA filters are monitored on a monthly basis and the results are documented.

FMS.34.5 Air change per hour is maintained as per national and international guidelines (e.g., American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers, ASHRAE).

Standard Intent:

The HVAC system functions not only to maintain minimum requirements of comfort and ventilation, but is an essential tool for the control of infection, removal of noxious odors, dilution, and expelling of contaminants, and establishment of special environmental conditions conducive to medical procedures and patient healing. Hospitals must develop and implement a planned preventive maintenance for the hospital's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system that is supported by the qualified staff.

FMS.35 The hospital ensures proper air flows (positive, negative, balanced) in the required locations.

FMS.35.1 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in operating room(s).

FMS.35.2 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in labor and delivery.

FMS.35.3 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in isolation room(s).

FMS.35.4 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in critical care unit(s).

FMS.35.5 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in clean and dirty utility.

FMS.35.6 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in janitorial closet.

FMS.35.7 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in the laboratory.

FMS.35.8 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in triage and trauma management areas.

FMS.35.9 Appropriate air flows (positive, negative, balanced) are established and monitored in the central sterilization and supply department.

Standard Intent:

Microbiological transmission in healthcare setting is inevitably a very potential risk. The main routes are droplets, contact, and air borne transmissions. Infection control for patients, healthcare providers and visitors is of paramount importance in the healthcare process in medical facilities. Proper air conditioning of medical care facilities is helpful in prevention and treatment of diseases.

Design of the ventilation system shall provide air movement which is generally from clean to less clean areas. Maintaining air differential pressure between areas in critical departments as stated by the standard is crucial for patient and staff safety. Hospitals must ensure that a permanently installed visual mechanism to constantly monitor the pressure status of the rooms when occupied.

FMS.36 The hospital provides appropriate control of temperature and humidity in the required locations.

FMS.36.1 Temperature and humidity are controlled and regularly monitored in operating and recovery room(s).

FMS.36.2 Temperature and humidity are controlled and regularly monitored in nursery.

FMS.36.3 Temperature and humidity are controlled and regularly monitored in critical care unit(s).

FMS.36.4 Temperature and humidity are controlled and regularly monitored in sterile storage supply.

FMS.36.5 Temperature and humidity are controlled and regularly monitored inpatient rooms.

Standard Intent:

Although there are many steps a medical care facility can take to reduce the chance that a patient falls ill for any reason, one of the top ways that not all treatment centers may have considered is through humidity monitoring and control.