

Laws Affecting Accessibility

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Laws you should know:

- **Smith- Fess Act (Civilian Vocational Act) of 1920**
- **Social Security Act -1935 –Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) 1972**
- **Workman's (Worker's) comp (1965)**

Laws Affecting Accessibility

- **CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) (1965)**

- Medicare for over 65 y.o. or with a disability after 24 months & ESRD, Transplants, ALS

- Part A Hospitalizations, SNF for first 100 days after 3-day hospital stay, hospice, DME

- Part B Physicians office

- Part C Advantage plans

- Part D Drug coverage

- 2. Medicaid Title XIX - managed by states funded by Federal programs

Laws Affecting Accessibility

- **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
- **Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988**
- **The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**
- **Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD act) - 2000**
- **No Child Left Behind -2001** was replaced with **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015**

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- **Individual with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act - IDEA** – 2004 (replaced Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975)
- **Affordable Care Act** -2011
- **IMPACT—Medicare Post—Acute Care Transformation 2014** - unified payment system for post-acute care: LTACHs, SNFs, HHAs, & IRFs

IMPACT

- This law requires submission of this data:
 - Functional status
 - Cognitive function & mental status
 - Special services
 - Treatments
 - Interventions
 - Medical conditions & co-morbidities
 - Quality measures-

Quality Measures

- Skin integrity
- Functional & cognitive status (changes)
- Med reconciliation
- Incidence of major falls
- Transference of Health Info
- Discharge info
- Potential preventable readmission

Guidelines for Accessibility

- Doors –at least 32 in wide
- Thresholds less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
- Steps – not higher than 7 in.
- Building restrooms-
 - Turning space 60 in. by 60 in
 - At least one with measurements of 3 ft wide and 4ft 8 in deep
 - Toilet seat at least 17-19 in high from base

Guidelines for Accessibility

- Water coolers- must be at 36 in or less from the floor
- Public telephones –no higher than 48 in from the floor
- Elevators- call buttons no higher than 48 in from the floor
- Fire alarms, light switches and thermostats not higher then 48 in. from the floor

Guidelines for Accessibility

- Handicap Parking has to be within 200 ft of entrance to building
- Walkways – at least 48 in. wide and gradient not greater than 1 ft rise in 20 ft
- Ramps-slope no greater than 1 ft rise in 12 ft
 - Width at least 36 in.
 - Handrails at least 32 in above the surface

Resources

- National Rehabilitation Information Center
800/346-2742 (Eastern time)
- RESNA Technical Assistance Project
703/524-6686 (ask if a local office is available)

Resources for Finding Solutions

- Many government and private resources are available.
- Resources change constantly; be mindful in searching for new resources.