

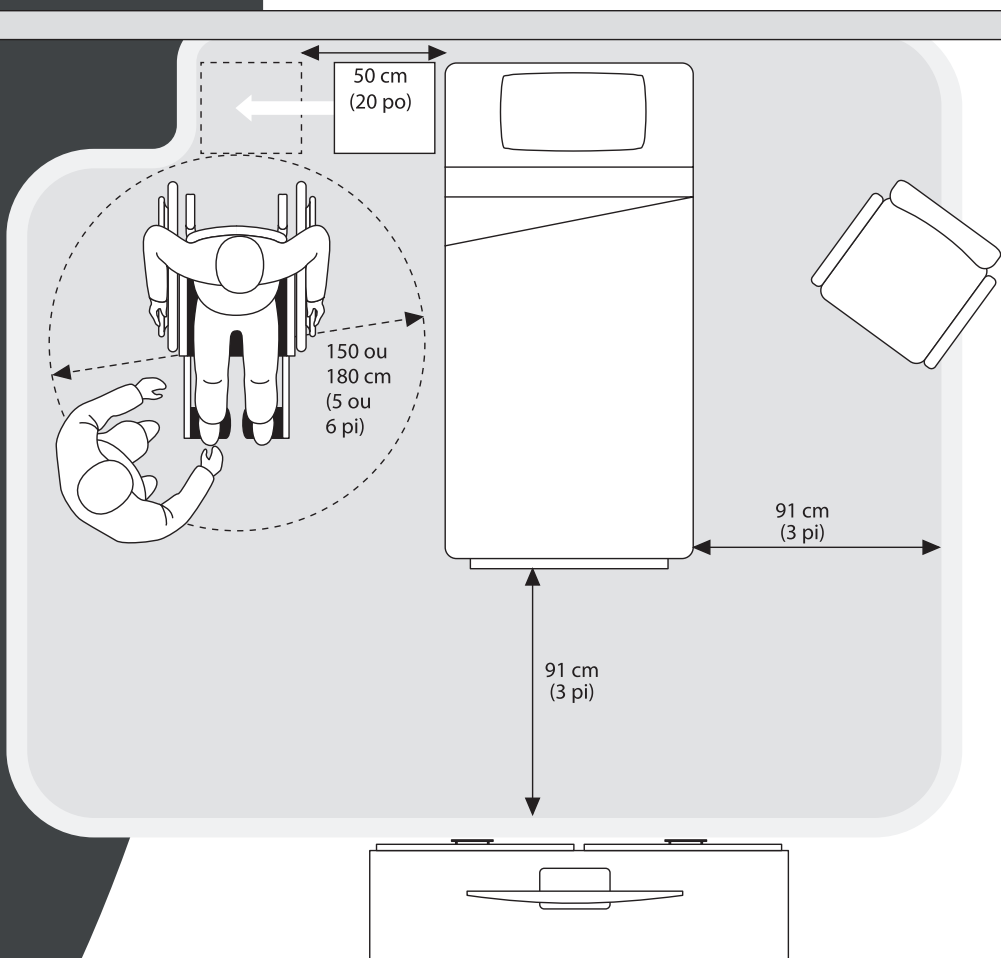


ERGONOMICS

Room Layout and safety

Room layout and items within a room often create safety risks for staff and users in intermediate resources (IR) and in private seniors' residences (PSR). This fact sheet outlines basic criteria for safe room layout.

LAYOUT CRITERIA



CLEARANCE AROUND THE BED

To ensure the health and safety of both users and staff, and the delivery of quality care, always arrange rooms with the following clearances around the bed :

Foot of the bed: 91 cm (3 ft.) to allow room to use a wheelchair or walking aid (walker, cane)

On one side: 150 cm (5 ft.) turning diameter to allow room to use a wheelchair, or 180 cm (6 ft.) for a mobile floor lift

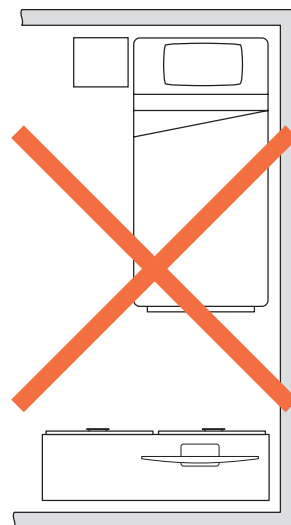
On the other side: 91 cm (3 ft.) to allow room for a wheelchair or walking aid and delivery of care

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

Make sure the bedside table can easily be moved 50 cm (20 in.) so that care can be provided to the patient's upper body and head.

To reduce the risk of tripping and falling, run power cords along the base of the walls.

Under no circumstances should the side of the bed be pushed up against a wall. The bed must always be accessible from three sides in order to allow for care, floor cleaning and changing of bed linens.



One policy, shared responsibility

A Room Layout and Safety policy ensures compliance with the recommended clearances. The policy is produced by the IR or PSR management and should be issued to all staff, users and family members. The policy should contain the following:

- ➔ **Objectives** of the Room Layout and Safety policy
- ➔ **Values** underlying the policy (e.g.: responsibility, integrity, etc.)
- ➔ **Layout criteria** (e.g.: required clearances, equipment provided, things that are prohibited, the procedure for adding new furniture, etc.)
- ➔ **Roles and responsibilities** of the parties involved (CIUSSS, IR or PSR management, staff, users and family members)
- ➔ **Procedure** in the event of failure to comply with the policy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution by the IR group of the CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal to this fact sheet.