

TAKEN TO ACCESS



Question of the month:

- Q.** We're installing a wall mounted computer in an exam room and we don't need to obtain a building permit. Do we need to submit this small project for Accessibility Plan Review (APR)?
- R.** Per the Consent Decree we are not required to perform an APR. However, often times, installing items such as wall mounted computers or AV boxes can encroach in required clearances for other features. FPD PAC can provide a quick review to insure that no new barriers are being created.

LOVE AND KEEP THOSE CLEARANCES

During the surveying phase of the Physical Accessibility Compliance program a significant number of movable barriers were identified and included in our ABRP's. The solution offered was simply to relocate the elements blocking access. However, without providing a permanent —parking location for such elements the barriers inevitably return.

Last December, DAC issued Guidelines for Maintaining an Accessible Environment to assist affiliates who have offered a policy solution as part of their Barrier Removal Plan. In writing the policy, the affiliate is assuring that staff are properly trained in maintaining accessibility.

A big focus of the guidelines is to maintain required clearances. Although clearances are usually taken into account during design and construction, such clearances often become the default parking area for various elements needed in a given space but not always accounted for in design.

The graphic below shows a floor plan of a typical exam room where the required clearances are noted. However, the layout does not include items such as a trash can, a scale, a mayo stand, a computer or a wheelchair, and as expected upon occupancy those elements are placed in required clearances for other features. As we enter the monitoring phase, these barriers are being cited once again creating an unnecessary and costly cycle.

When planning new spaces, we encourage all involved to clearly and candidly identify all —must have's and —nice to have's so that a design accommodating all requirements can be provided from the onset and allow for ongoing accessibility when occupied.

Reporting Update:

The next reporting deadline is February 13, 2013. All ABRP's approved by Class Counsel must submit their prospective reports for 2013. Below is a list of affiliates that will begin reporting:

- SPMF—Professional Building, California Campus, Psychiatry and Novato
- SMCS – Fort Sutter Infusion, Sleep Centers, Senior Care, Sutter Center for Psychiatry
- CPMC – Library
- MPHS – Skilled Nursing and Extended Care
- SRMC – MOB3 Exterior
- SEBMF – (12 Sites)
- SGMF – (26 Sites) and Stockton GI Clinics
- SMF Central – Roseville Suites

