

Conventional and Unconventional Spaces and Hallway Definitions

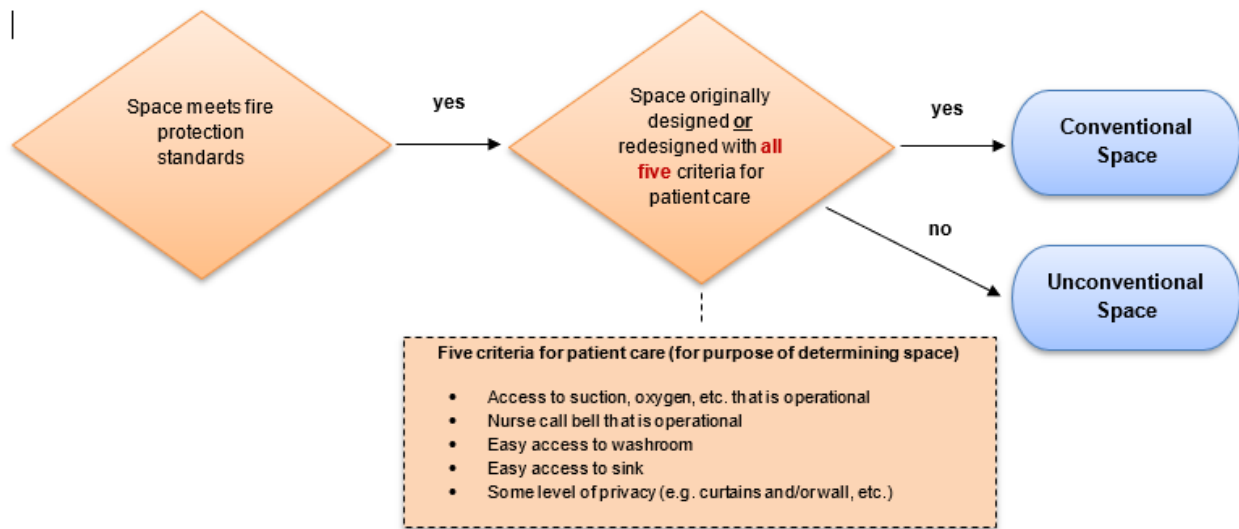
Conventional and Unconventional Spaces

In February 2020, the Ministry of Health, in consultation with the Ontario Hospital Association and clinical and operational experts from hospitals, revised the definitions for conventional and unconventional spaces in the hospital and the overflow measure (hallway patients).

The definitions as of February 18, 2020, for conventional and unconventional spaces are shown below.

Conventional Space	Unconventional Space
<p>The space was originally designed and equipped to provide patient care.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>The space has been permanently redesigned and equipped to allow for patient care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>Space meets fire protection standards</p>	<p>The space was not originally designed and equipped to currently provide patient care.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>The space has not been permanently redesigned and is not currently equipped to allow for patient care</p>
<p>The following features constitute a space that allows for patient care.</p> <p>If a space is equipped with all of the following, it is conventional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to suction, oxygen, etc. that is operational • Nurse call bell that is operational • Easy access to washroom • Easy access to sink • Some level of privacy (e.g., curtains and/or wall, etc.) 	<p>If a space is not equipped with one or more of the following, it is unconventional.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to suction, oxygen, etc. that is operational • Nurse call bell that is operational • Easy access to washroom • Easy access to sink • Some level of privacy (e.g., curtains and/or wall, etc.)

Decision Criteria for Conventional/Unconventional Space



At the same time, the hallway patients definition was modified to include admitted patients in conventional spaces in the ED (i.e., in ED beds), admitted patients in unconventional spaces in the ED (i.e., in ER stretchers), and admitted patients in unconventional spaces in other locations in the hospital¹. The table below provides a summary.

Hallway definition for emergency department	Hallway definition for other locations in the hospital
The total number of patients that have been admitted for care and remain in either conventional or unconventional spaces in the emergency department because a bed is not available.	The number of inpatients placed in unconventional spaces. This excludes patients in unconventional spaces within the emergency department.

These definitions have not changed with the introduction of the Segmented Daily Bed Census Summary in October 2021.

¹The original hallway definition (in place until February 17, 2020) included admitted patients in ER stretchers and inpatients in beds in unconventional spaces.