

Taken to Access

FPS
Physical Access
Compliance Program

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Question of the month:

Q. Is Sutter Health allowed to have Plan Reviews performed “in-house”?

R. Yes, DRA has approved Sutter Health to have the Sutter Health Accessibility Architect conduct plan reviews for the following project types:

- Electrical outlet installations
- Minor equipment replacement such as Omnicell, Pyxis, Blanket Warmer, Vending Machine or ATM
- Minor barrier removal modifications such as lowering counter heights
- Toilet room remodels if not part of a larger project
- Exam room remodels not exceeding 5 rooms

Please note that this option is reserved only for small projects with tight project timelines where a third-party plan reviewer is unable to meet the timeline. It is also dependent on the Sutter Health Accessibility Architect’s current work load. The required monitoring process is unchanged.

Please contact [Burnette Allen](#) (916-566-4825) if you would like this option considered for your project. This is indicated as “OTC: Over-the-Counter” review on the plan review application.

“ROBUST” ACCESSIBILITY PLAN REVIEW

As you all know, Class Counsel has approved two methods for accessibility plan review and monitoring: 1) separate [Accessibility Plan Review \(APR\)](#) & [Monitoring](#) and 2) [Alternate Compliance Method \(ACM\)](#). Because the accessibility reviews for the required APR/Monitoring process are limited, project teams have found this process too risky. However, project teams have also found the required documentation in the ACM process too burdensome. Therefore, we recommend what is informally called the “Robust” Accessibility Plan Review where the access specialist provides additional consulting services beyond the required APR/Monitoring process.

Additional services from the access specialist can include:

1. Preliminary reviews of floor plans/construction documents that are not yet 90% completion. Identification of common issue areas.
2. Responses to specific questions from the project team that are not within the official plan review process.
3. Preliminary site visits prior to official monitoring.

The “Robust” APR allows the project teams to decrease risk of accessibility barriers by identifying them earlier in design and construction. Please contact [Burnette Allen](#) (916-566-4825) if you feel that your project will benefit from the “Robust” APR.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

DON'T FORGET: ABRP reporting is required by the Consent Decree. Please ensure that you provide complete and updated reports to [Mary Ellen Medinilla](#) (916-566-4832) during the required ABRP reporting cycles.

WE NEED YOU: After each completed Accessibility Plan Reviews, Monitoring or New Real Estate Survey, we will send you a PAC Customer Service Survey link. You can also access the Survey on the [internal PAC Web Portal](#) at any time. Please provide your feedback— this will help us improve our processes.

USE OUR WEBSITE: Our [internal PAC Web Portal](#) has the latest interpretations, processes and forms. Many of these documents are also on our [external PAC Web Portal](#) - inform your vendors.

SAVE THE DATE: ACCESSIBILITY SEMINAR

Bill Zellmer is offering an Accessibility Seminar where the focus is “Problem Solving,” building upon his 2015 seminar. Mark your calendars, inform your architects and look out for more details:

Date: 3/31/16 Thursday
Time: 9 am to 3 pm
Location: Sutter Health Alta Bates Summit Medical Center—Alta Bates Campus
 2450 Ashby Avenue, 1st Floor Auditorium
 Berkeley, CA 94705