



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

CSA Z8004, *OPERATION AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF LONG-TERM CARE HOMES*

FEBRUARY 11, 2022

The public review draft of the new CSA Standard **Z8004, *Operations and infection prevention and control of long-term care homes*** is now available.

The draft is available for a 60-day public review and comment period until **April 11, 2022**.

To review the Standard and have your say, visit:

- English: <https://publicreview.csa.ca/Home/Details/4441>
- French: <https://publicreview.csa.ca/Home/Details/4495>

PURPOSE & APPLICATION

Long-term care (LTC) is a complex topic in Canada, receiving significant public attention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic exposed significant gaps in the quality and safety of care within LTC homes. LTC is not publicly insured under the Canada Health Act and is governed by provincial and territorial legislation resulting in different jurisdictions offering a variable range of services and cost coverage for LTC homes across the country. The Canadian Institute for Health Information reported over 80% of Canada's known COVID-19 deaths were in LTC homes, nearly double the average for Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, and LTC homes losing approximately 40% of their residents in the first 3 months of the crisis.

STANDARD SCOPE

The draft CSA Z8004 on Operation and infection prevention and control of long-term care homes is intended to provide guidance on safe operating practices and infection prevention and control (IPAC) in long-term care homes (LTCHs).

The draft takes into consideration what is required during normal, day-to-day activities, as well as in the event of catastrophic events such as outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.

The draft considers factors such as homes of different sizes, resident demographics, new builds, as well as existing homes.

OUT OF SCOPE

National Standards of Canada do not incorporate requirements related to administrative topics such as pricing, insurance, and reimbursement. In addition, content related to medical practice and professional obligations are not operational requirements and, therefore, not within the scope of this Standard.



Draft CSA Z8004 does not address topics related to resident care and delivery of services (e.g., bathing frequency, feeding and assistive measures, quality indicators for care, age-friendly care – see comments on slide deck).

END-USERS

The intended end-users of CSA Z8004 include operational staff, infection prevention and control personnel, directors of care, operational staff, infection prevention and control personnel, directors of care, architects, designers, engineers, governmental bodies, and residents and families.

Engineers, architects, and designers will likely benefit from using this Standard alongside other detailed CSA Group Standards.

DRAFT STANDARD CLAUSES

The draft CSA Z8004 is divided into the following sections (Clauses). It considers the emergence of new technologies throughout the various subclauses and recommends that LTCHs adopt the most up-to-date policies, procedures, and methodologies based on direction from the authority having jurisdiction.

Clause 4 Organizational commitments

The **Organizational Commitments** Clause is at the forefront of the draft and is meant to inform all other sections of the Standard. The Commitments include the following:

- People-centered care
- Relationship building within and outside the LTCH
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Sexual expression and intimacy

shall be applied in operations, IPAC, and design consideration in all LTCHs. The objective is to balance safety and residents' right to live with dignity and risk.

Clause 5 Operations

The **Operations** Clause of the draft Standard covers topics such as visitor policies during day-to-day operations and catastrophic events, nutrition and food policies and procedures, and communications. This Clause also contains guidance for a transdisciplinary team, assessment team, and quality improvement requirements, including risk management and quality auditing. Waste management is also incorporated in the draft Standard with reference to CSA Z317.10 (see below), which contains additional requirements for waste management processes and procedures.

Clause 6 Quality improvement

The **Quality improvement** Clause of the draft Standard covers topics such as data collection, quality auditing, process improvement, and risk management.

Clause 7 Infection prevention and control (IPAC)

The **IPAC** Clause of the draft Standard incorporates topics such as IPAC program elements, procurement, cleaning and disinfection, considerations for resident belongings, laundry,



personal protective equipment, hand hygiene, considerations for resident bedroom and washroom, and anti-microbial stewardship.

Clause 8 Design and Clause 9 LTCH systems

The **Design and Systems** Clauses of the draft Standard provide requirements for various LTCH systems such as plumbing, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), medical gas systems, as well as electrical and electronic building systems. Security systems and access control are important requirements that help ensure the safety of residents. Requirements for the design of internal and external spaces is provided, including but not limited to resident bedrooms and washrooms, laundry spaces, kitchen spaces, common spaces, and multi-purpose rooms. CSA Group has a suite of health care facility Standards that provide additional technical requirements for design (see below).

Clause 10 Information and technology

The **Information and Technology** Clause specifies requirements for LTCH design and implementation, network equipment, real-time locating systems, data systems, and data management.

Clause 11 Catastrophic event management

The **Catastrophic event management** Clause provides requirements for risk assessment, and planning processes for internal catastrophic events (e.g., fire, flooding, loss of power) and external catastrophic events (e.g., airborne and organic contaminants, extreme temperature conditions, extreme weather events). This Clause also provides guidance on outbreak, epidemic and pandemic management.

Clause 12 Training

Training and education is also an important topic of the draft Standard, with each Clause requiring education to the staff, residents, and families.

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES AND PROMOTION

CSA Group published “What We Heard” reports summarizing input from six consultation sessions conducted from June to August 2021. A [final “What We Heard” report](#) was published on January 11, 2022 and summarizes the findings from the consultations, as well input from three targeted surveys. The feedback helped inform the development of draft CSA Z8004. CSA Group is grateful to all who took time to participate and provide their input to-date.

Visit [CSA Communities: Long term care homes](#) to find out more about CSA Z8004, supporting information, upcoming information sessions, and more.

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