



NABH/Gen/2026/00410

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Notification - Revised Occupancy Norms

The requirement of average minimum bed occupancy of 30% for the Healthcare Organizations (HCOs) has been one of the eligibility criteria for initiating and sustaining NABH accreditation/certification. This intends to ensure that the facility has a sufficient clinical load to demonstrate the effective implementation of quality standards.

It has been noted that several healthcare organizations, particularly newly established facilities find it challenging in meeting this criterion of the 30% occupancy. Considering that such facilities are not excluded from quality improvement initiatives, NABH, QCI via Newspaper (The Time of India, New Delhi) dated December 24, 2025 has announced Next-Gen Reforms to revised occupancy norms. This reform aims to make the quality journey more inclusive while maintaining the integrity of the assessment process.

Revised Eligibility Conditions:

- Hospital must be operational for at least 6 months
- NABH standards must be implemented for a minimum of 3 months

Minimum Average Bed Occupancy Requirements:

A. Accreditation Programme

- Final Assessment: Minimum 20% (last 3 months)
- Surveillance Assessment: Minimum 25% (preceding 1 year)
- Renewal Assessment: Minimum 30% (preceding 1 year)

B. Certification Programme

- Final Assessment: Minimum 20% (last 3 months)
- 1st Renewal: Minimum 25% (preceding 1 year)
- 2nd Renewal: Minimum 30% (preceding 1 year)

C. Standalone Day-Care Centres

For centres such as Ophthalmology, Chemotherapy, IVF, Dialysis, etc., day-care beds will be considered as census beds for calculating occupancy.

The assessment for inclusion in the scope of accreditation/certification for individual super-specialty shall however continue to be based on the availability of a minimum number of three cases in the concerned super specialty over a six-month period.

These relaxations are subject to fulfilment of all prescribed conditions.



Formula to calculate Average bed occupancy:

	Formula		Remarks
Average Bed Occupancy (for a month/ over three-months/ preceding one year)	Number of inpatient days in that month/ over three-months/ preceding one year	X100	<p>For a bed to be included in the official count as operational bed, it must be set up, staffed, equipped and available 24X7 for patient care.</p> <p>Inpatient Days: A patient day is the unit of measure denoting lodging provided and services rendered to inpatients between the census taking hours (usually at midnight) of two successive days. A patient formally admitted who is discharged or died on the same day is counted as one patient day, regardless of the number of hours the patient occupies a hospital bed. For patients switched from observation to inpatient status, the patient day count should begin on the day the patient was officially admitted as an inpatient.</p> <p>For day care centres, inpatient days can be taken considered as: a unit of measure denoting lodging provided and services rendered to inpatients between the working hours.</p> <p>The bed occupancy rate is the percentage of operational beds occupied by hospital inpatients for a given period of time. – (Basic statistics for health information management technology By Carol E. Osborn)</p> <p>The occupancy rate is a calculation used to show the actual utilisation of an inpatient health facility for a given time period.</p>

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

(Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar)
CEO-NABH