

10.53106/199457952023091705008

Transition toward a Barrier-Free Hospital Environment

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Abstract

The presence of accessible, barrier-free facilities represents the level of importance society attaches to the wellbeing of the disabled; it is an indication of a civilized society and the basis of happy aging. As public service venues frequented by patients and older adults, hospital buildings should regard accessibility a top priority. However, given that the building codes on accessibility only encompass architectural design, accessibility requirements may be overlooked when amenities and equipment are added after the completion of a building, which consequently impact their convenience of use. This paper examines the origin and spirit of buildings codes on accessibility, explores problems commonly encountered in hospital buildings, and proposes suggestions and recommendations for improvement. The contributions of this paper may help improve the safety and accessibility of hospital environment and prepare it for the challenges of a super-aged society.

Keywords: barrier-free hospital environment, barrier-free facilities, aging society


邁向更完備的無障礙醫院

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摘要

無障礙環境之優劣代表社會對行動不便者的關懷程度，是社會文明的一項重要指標，也是幸福高齡社會的基礎。醫院提供公共服務且使用者多為病人或高齡長者，為優先考慮無障礙環境之指標性建築，但因建築物無障礙相關法令所規範之範圍僅為建築物硬體，建築完成後再建置之相關設施設備或因後續規劃設計者未盡瞭解或未重視，往往未能妥當設置，而影響使用之便利性。本文概述無障礙設施相關規範的內涵、緣起外，特別探討當前醫院建築中常見之問題，並提出較佳之改善及設置建議，期藉由大家一起努力，讓行動不便者及高齡者有更安全便利的就醫環境，也讓我們更有信心面對未來超高齡社會的挑戰。

關鍵詞：醫院無障礙環境、無障礙設施、高齡社會