

TOPIC 3 – VA HOSPITAL BUILDING SYSTEM

- 1. PURPOSE:** VA policy on the design of new hospital buildings is to provide for their continuing adaptability to changing conditions and programs throughout their structural life.
- 2. VA HOSPITAL BUILDING SYSTEM (VAHBS):** The VAHBS concept described in VA Hospital Building System Research Study Report, Project No. 99-R047 (U.S. Government Printing Office Stock No. 051-000-00 112-5), provides such adaptability. All new and replacement VA hospital buildings should use the VAHBS system to the maximum practicable extent, to optimize construction, flexibility, accessibility, and systems accessibility and maintenance. Also consider using this system for major additions to existing hospitals where future adaptability is an important factor.
- 3. INTERSTITIAL SPACE – INTERIM GUIDANCE:** The interstitial space is one component of the VAHBS, an unfinished or non-habitable space utilized for building service subsystems, of sufficient size to accommodate workmen and permit maintenance and alteration without disruption of activities in functional spaces. It is the predominant component of the VAHBS used in many medical facilities projects. See [Design Alert 154, Interstitial Space - Interim Guidance](#), on <https://www.cfm.va.gov/ti/alerts.asp>, for minimum requirements for the design and construction of interstitial space for VA medical facilities.

