

## 6.0 Grab-Rails and Hand-Rails

### 6.1 General

#### 6.1.1 *Continuity*

In corridors accessed by patients, a grab-rail to one side is mandatory.

Depending on the plan, the following will apply:

- The hand-rail should be on the side of the wall leading to the majority of rooms or areas related to patients
- If the continuity of the grab-rail is interrupted due to a large number of doors placed in close proximity, a grab-rail should be provided to the opposite wall, at least for the length of corridor affected.

The height of grab-rails and hand-rails in corridors will comply with Accessibility Standards for Corridors.

#### 6.1.2 *Lifts*

Hand-rails shall be provided in lifts used for patient, staff and visitors, to at least one side.

#### 6.1.3 *Prevention of Self-Harm*

In certain areas such as Mental Health Units, grab-rails may present the possibility of self-harm by providing points of ligature.

Depending on the Operational Policy, corridor hand-rails in Mental Health Units shall be designed in such a way that the space between the base of the hand-rail profile and the wall is blocked. This arrangement does not totally eliminate the ligature point, but it makes it impossible to tie an object around the rail.

#### 6.1.4 *Outside Corners*

Hand-rails meeting outside wall corners should be either continuous around the corner or set back from the corners by approximately 100mm. This is to minimize the chance of the rail grabbing onto clothing, especially large pockets. Any hand-rails continuing around 90 degree corners shall be rounded to avoid a dangerous sharp edge.