Interpretation IC 170-2017-2 of
ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2017
Ventilation of Health Care Facilities

Date Approved: June 25, 2019

Request from: Travis R. English, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, 1800 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 92510.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2013, Section 8, regarding application to outpatient facilities.

Background: Standard 170 has traditionally been applied in conjunction with the FGI Guidelines.

The 2018 edition of the FGI Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Outpatient Facilities includes the following text to identify where ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 is applicable:

“2.1-8.2 Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) Systems
2.1-8.2.1 General
2.1-8.2.1.1 The following facility types, whether standalone or part of a mixed-use facility, shall comply with Part 3 (ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170, Ventilation of Health Care Facilities)
   (1) Outpatient Surgical Facilities
   (2) Endoscopy Facilities
2.1-8.2.1.2 For the following facility types, whether standalone or part of a mixed-use facility, included room types that are listed in Table .81 of ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 shall meet the requirements of Standard 170:
   (1) Imaging facilities with Class 2 and Class 3 imaging rooms
   (2) Infusion facilities
   (3) Dialysis facilities
2.1-8.2.1.3 For the following facility types, whether standalone or part of a mixed-use facility, ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170 shall not apply.
   (1) General and specialty medical services facilities
   (2) Urgent care
   (3) Imaging facilities with Class 1 imaging rooms
   (4) Outpatient psychiatric facilities
   (5) Outpatient rehabilitation facilities
   (6) Dental facilities
   (7) Birth centers”

In Standard 170-2017, outpatient facility requirements have been separated from inpatient facility requirements in a new Section 8. These requirements of this new section do not distinguish between different types of outpatient facilities.

Interpretation: Section 8 of Standard 170-2017 should be applied consistent with the FGI 2018 Outpatient Guidelines.
Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: SSPC 170 Addendum j (when issued) will help clarify this issue in much greater detail.