

Clinic facilities.—Clinics are defined as “those various units (including adjunct services units) of the outpatient department, responsible for general and specialty management of designated diagnostic and treatment procedures.”² Outpatient clinics will generally require and contain similar spaces and items of equipment common to most physicians’ and dentists’ offices, or examination and treatment rooms.

In addition to these basic and general facilities, certain clinics, such as the emergency services unit, will require specialized areas and equipment. The emergency services unit is “that unit (clinic) the outpatient department where services are rendered to outpatients in the diagnosis or treatment of conditions determined clinically, considered by the patient (or his representative), as requiring immediate physician, dentist, or allied services.”³

Required by the very nature of its services, the emergency service unit ideally has a distinctive architectural design, with physical features augmented by specialized equipment. Typically, the emergency services unit is located within the total area of, and adjacent to the other clinics of the outpatient department, providing easy communication of patients and staff personnel between clinics and specialized facilities. In addition to the usual examination and treatment room(s), the major physical features peculiar to this unit include: separate entrances, protected from the weather, with wide, swinging doors for use of patients arriving on foot or by ambulance; a concrete walkway to entrances, without steps; platform for unloading ambulances; a waiting area for relatives and friends of patients; a room for use by police officers and press reporters; facilities for restraint of psychotic and alcoholic patients; a poison center; storage spaces for wheelchairs and stretchers; and room(s) with beds and other equipment for observation, treatment, and procedures prior to possible admittance of emergency patients to the inpatient section of the hospital. Commonly included in the equipment specifically provided for emergency care, are: wheelchairs and stretchers; aspiration, drainage, and suction equipment; equipment for administration of drugs, medication, and anesthetic agents; emergency dental equipment; portable X-ray equipment; a storage safe for narcotics and drugs; and a storage safe for patients’ valuables.

Hospital adjunct services are “those special diagnostic and therapeutic facilities and services established in the hospital for assisting in the determination and confirmation of the physician’s or dentist’s diagnosis, and/or the provision of treatment ordered by and under supervision of a physician or dentist.”⁴ These services are commonly thought of as including radiological, laboratory, pharmacy, and rehabilitative activities. Additional and specialized adjunct services, such as blood banks, bone and tissue banks, prosthetic, electrocardiology, and inhalation therapy, may be also offered depending upon program needs and other factors. Each of the major adjunct services normally requires extensive specialized equipment and housing space.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*