

(d) *Qualitative Standards of Performance*

All States and territories, except the Virgin Islands, have established requirements for the operation of nursing homes. The responsibility, however, is assigned to several types of agencies. In 46 States and territories the licensing agency is the health department, in four States the welfare department, and in the remaining States it is in other agencies. Licensure requirements are from uniform and are often the minimum standards that will protect patient's safety. Because of the shortage of nursing homes, special licensing is not unusual for homes unable to meet upgraded standards. In some States, certain homes are exempt from licensure, such as those sponsored by church or fraternal organizations. The 1961 inventory by the Public Health Service, about half the reported one or more homes which were operating without fully licensed. At that time, beds in these homes accounted 5 percent (16,500) of the total number of skilled nursing home beds in the country.

The need for minimal standards which would assure quality care in nursing homes has been recognized by various organizations for many years. A number of accreditation programs have been initiated by nursing home associations and various national groups. Just recently, however, an accreditation program has been instituted by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. The program is directed to "extended care facilities," defined in brief as institutions providing accommodations and nursing and related health care to two or more persons (not related to the owner or administrator) for 24 hours or more, but not primarily for care and treatment of the ill.

The standards as established by the joint commission are based on the principle that the patient must be under a continuing planned program of care, focusing on the special needs of the patient and rendered in a physical and social environment which provides for the safety of the patient and the achievement and maintenance of a maximum level of restoration. Substantial compliance with all the standards is required for accreditation.⁶

The Social Security Administration has recently issued the conditions of participation (constituting qualitative standards to be met) for extended care facilities in the health insurance program for the aged. Included in the conditions of participation are standards to (1) compliance with State and local laws, (2) administrative management, (3) patient care policies, (4) physician services, (5) nursing services, (6) dietary services, (7) restorative services, (8) pharmaceutical services, (9) diagnostic services, (10) dental services, (11) laboratory services, (12) patient services, (13) clinical records, (14) transfer facilities, (15) physical environment, (16) housekeeping services, (17) disaster plan, and (18) utilization review plan.

2. EXISTING CAPITAL PLANT IN THE UNITED STATES

(a) and (b) *Number of Facilities and Distribution by States*

As of January 1, 1965, Hill-Burton State agencies reported a total of about 13,900 long-term care facilities in the United States and possessions. Included in the total were some 13,000 skilled nursing

⁶ Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. *Standards for Accreditation of Extended Care Facilities*. Attached as app. B.