

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Dialysis Treatment Center – Ambulatory Health Care Facility**

**Code:** 2012 Building Code  
**Section:** 422, 202, & 304

**Date:** March 12, 2013

**Question:**

Is a dialysis treatment center considered a Group B (business) “Ambulatory Health Care Facility” by the code?

**Answer:**

Yes. Although some patients may be able to disconnect themselves from a dialysis machine in an emergency, most are incapable of self-preservation because the related disease has left them in a physically weak state or, they are incapable of understanding the instructions for safely and properly disconnecting themselves from the dialysis equipment. Since a dialysis patient is treated on a less than a 24-hour basis and may be rendered incapable of self-preservation during such treatment, such facilities meet the code definition for an “Ambulatory Health Care Facility”.

**Code References:**

Section 202 – Definitions

AMBULATORY HEALTH CARE FACILITY. Buildings or portions thereof used to provide medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing or similar care on a less than 24-hour basis to individuals who are rendered incapable of self-preservation.

**Keywords:**

Kidney failure