

## UMF Medical Briefing

# 2024 U.S. Access Board Standards for Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment (MDE)

Helping Healthcare Providers Understand the New  
Accessibility Requirements and How to Stay Compliant



## New Federal Standards for Accessible Medical Diagnostic Equipment

On July 25, 2024, the U.S. Access Board released final standards under Section 4203 of the Affordable Care Act to improve accessibility to medical diagnostic equipment for individuals with disabilities. These standards specifically outline criteria for the design of exam chairs, procedure chairs, and other diagnostic equipment to better support equitable care and independent patient transfers.

Effective September 23, 2024, these new standards establish a maximum low seat height of 17 inches as a requirement for accessible exam and procedure chairs.

## Key Requirements

### 1 Transfer Height Range

Examination chairs must provide:

- A low transfer position at or below 17 inches
- A high transfer position of at least 25 inches
- At least four additional positions, spaced no less than 1 inch apart, between the low and high extremes

### 2 Transfer Surface Dimensions

- Minimum width: 21 inches
- Minimum depth: 17 inches

### 3 Transfer Supports

- Be within 1.5 inches horizontally of the seat edge
- Be 15 inches long or more
- Be positioned 6 to 19 inches above the seat height
- Have a circular gripping surface between 1.25 and 2 inches in diameter
- Be free of obstructions along the gripping area

### 4 Leg Support

Where stirrups are included, additional leg support must be provided to stabilize and secure the patient.

### 5 Base Clearance

The chair base must not exceed 26 inches wide at the edge of the transfer surface.

## What this means for healthcare facilities

While the Access Board's 2024 update took effect in September, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has not yet mandated enforcement of the 17-inch low height standard. Instead, enforcement currently applies to the 2017 standard, which requires a seat height between 17–19 inches.

### Scoping Requirements (DOJ, effective October 8, 2024):

- 10% of MDE in general facilities must meet 2017 ADA standards
- 20% in rehab facilities treating mobility impairments must comply
- At least one unit per facility must meet these standards
- Compliance deadline: August 9, 2026



### UMF Medical's position

At UMF Medical, we believe accessibility is not just a requirement—it's a responsibility.

That's why our new FusionFREEDOM™ Exam Chair is built with ADA compliance in mind, delivering a 17-inch low transfer height to meet the latest U.S. Access Board recommendations. And it's the only exam chair on the market to meet U.S. Access Board's ADA standards with both a power and manual back option. Coupled with our exclusive TruComfort™ Support Rails, which support safe patient transfers, our exam chairs empower providers to deliver inclusive, dignified care.



### Why it matters

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 44 million Americans live with disabilities, and the most common are mobility-related. Inaccessible diagnostic equipment contributes to delayed diagnoses, incomplete care, and secondary health issues.

Investing in accessible exam chairs—like the FusionFREEDOM™—is not just about meeting standards. It's about ensuring every patient can receive care safely and respectfully.

### Takeaway

#### UMF Medical is ready to help your facility:

- Stay ahead of compliance deadlines
- Improve patient outcomes
- Deliver care with confidence and compassion



For more information or to request a demo, visit [umfmedical.com](https://umfmedical.com).

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