

Q. What is a Pilot Freestanding Emergency Room (PFER)?

A. A "Pilot freestanding emergency room" is a facility open twenty-four (24) hours a day for the treatment of urgent and emergent medical conditions that is not located on a hospital campus. In order to be eligible for licensure under this chapter, the pilot freestanding emergency room shall be located at least fifteen (15) miles from the nearest hospital-based emergency room in a county without emergency hospital care that is open twenty-four (24) hours a day.: Miss. Code Ann. § 41-75-1 (k)

Q. Is a PFER the same thing as an Emergency Hospital?

A. No. "A PFER ... shall not hold itself out as an emergency hospital." Rule 41.84.3 (2)

Q. What is the maximum length of stay in a PFER?

A. The maximum length of stay in a PFER is less than 24 hours. "A PFER shall not retain any patient beyond 23 hours and 59 minutes under normal operations and shall not hold itself out as an emergency hospital." Rule 41.84.3 (2)

Q. Is there a limit to the number of licenses that can be issued for a PFER?

A. Yes. "The licensing agency shall authorize no more than five (5) facilities as provided for in Section 41-75-1(k).

Q. Where can I get an application for a PFER License?

A. To receive an application, contact the License Administrator at the MSDH Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification (HFLC).

License Administrator: (601) 364-2722

HFLC Main Number: (601) 364-1100

Email: Christal.Carter@msdh.ms.gov

Q. How many PFER licenses can be issued?

A. No more than Five (5). "The licensing agency shall not issue licenses for more than five (5) pilot freestanding emergency rooms. The licensing agency shall adopt criteria for determining which applicants will have priority for receiving a license if there are more than five (5) applications for pilot freestanding emergency room licenses. §41-75-13 (2)."

Q. How are the first five (5) PFER applications selected by the Mississippi State Department of Health Office of Licensure?

A. Upon request, the license administrator will send a numbered license to the requestor. The License Administrator will keep a log that will track who the application was sent to, the date and time the application was sent to the requestor, and the date and time the completed application was received by the MS State Department of Health.

The first five (5) completed applications received by the MSDH Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification will be selected to proceed with the licensing process. Complete(d) means all fields of the application are filled out legibly, all required documents have been submitted with the application, and the application has been signed and dated.

Q. Where can I find the regulations for a PFER?

A. The PFER regulations are located in the Minimum Standards for Mississippi Hospitals (Minimum Standards) in [Subchapter 84](#).

Q. Does a PFER have to be affiliated with a hospital to be eligible for a license?

A. Yes. [Rule 41.84.11 Ownership in the Minimum Standards](#) states: "...All PFERs must be affiliated with a MS licensed hospital."

Q. What are the Licensing Fees for a PFER?

A. Licensing Fees are as follows:

Initial Licensure	\$3,967.50
Renewal (Annual)	\$3,967.50

Q. Are there any minimum staffing requirements for a PFER?

A. Yes. The PFER must possess the staff and resources necessary to evaluate all individuals presenting to the emergency department. Staffing that must be available 24 hours a day on site include:

- At least one physician on site Certified or Board Eligible Certified or Board Eligible by the American Board of Emergency Medicine or the American Board of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine; or Certified or Board Eligible to sit for the examination of one of the following boards: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, or Surgery; and shall hold a certificate from the following approved programs: Advanced Coronary Life Support; Advanced Trauma Life Support; Advanced Pediatric Life Support; and shall have three years of full-time clinical experience in emergency medicine within the past five years.

- At least one registered nurse on site with training in emergency care. Registered nurse shall hold a current certification in both Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Pediatric Life Support, or two registered nurses on site at all times, one having current certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and one with current certification in Advanced Pediatric Life Support. at least one certified and registered radiology technologist shall be on site at the PFER at all times.
- At least one certified and registered radiology technologist shall be on site at the PFER at all times.
- At least one person qualified to perform laboratory testing at the level of laboratory services provided on site by the PFER shall be on duty at all times.
- [See Rule 41.84.14 Staffing and Treatment of the Minimum Standards](#) for a complete listing of required staffing and treatment.

Q. Are there any specific building requirements for a PFER?

A. Yes, for new construction or renovation of an existing building, you must comply with all local, county, and state building codes. You must also comply with the following rules in the Minimum Standards:

- Rule 41.84.18 Design and Construction Elements: Physical Plant.
- Rule 41.84.19 Submission of Plans and Specifications.
- Rule 41.84.20 Fire Reporting and Protection.
- Rule 41.84.21 Plumbing
- Rule 41.84.22 Emergency Electric Service
- Contact the MSDH Office of Fire Safety and Construction for a complete list of requirements (601) 364-1111.

Q. Does a PFER have to have its own emergency operations plan?

A. Yes, The licensed entity shall develop and maintain a written preparedness plan utilizing the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Template developed by the MSDH Office of Emergency Planning and Response... Rule 41.84.42

Q. Can I apply for Certification from the Centers For Medicare and Medicaid services for a PFER?

A. No. Currently there is no certification path for a PFER. [Rule 41.84.11 Ownership in the Minimum Standards](#) states: "...All PFERs must be affiliated with a MS licensed hospital."

Q. Does the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act (EMTALA) apply to a PFER ?

A. Yes, Since a PFER must be affiliated with a hospital, they must comply with the federal [Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act \(EMTALA\)](#). Rule 41.84.14 of the Minimum Standards also states, "The PFER must follow all requirements of EMTALA in regard to assuring the medical evaluation, stabilization and transfer of a patient found to have an emergency condition."



Q. Who can I contact for additional Information?

A. For additional information or questions not covered in this FAQ, please contact the MSDH Office of Licensure.

General Number:	601-364-1100
License Administrator:	601-364-2722
Fire Safety & Construction / Life Safety Code:	601-364-1111
CLIA	601-364-1115
Criminal History Record Check	601-364-1102
Acute Care Survey & Enforcement	601-364-2708