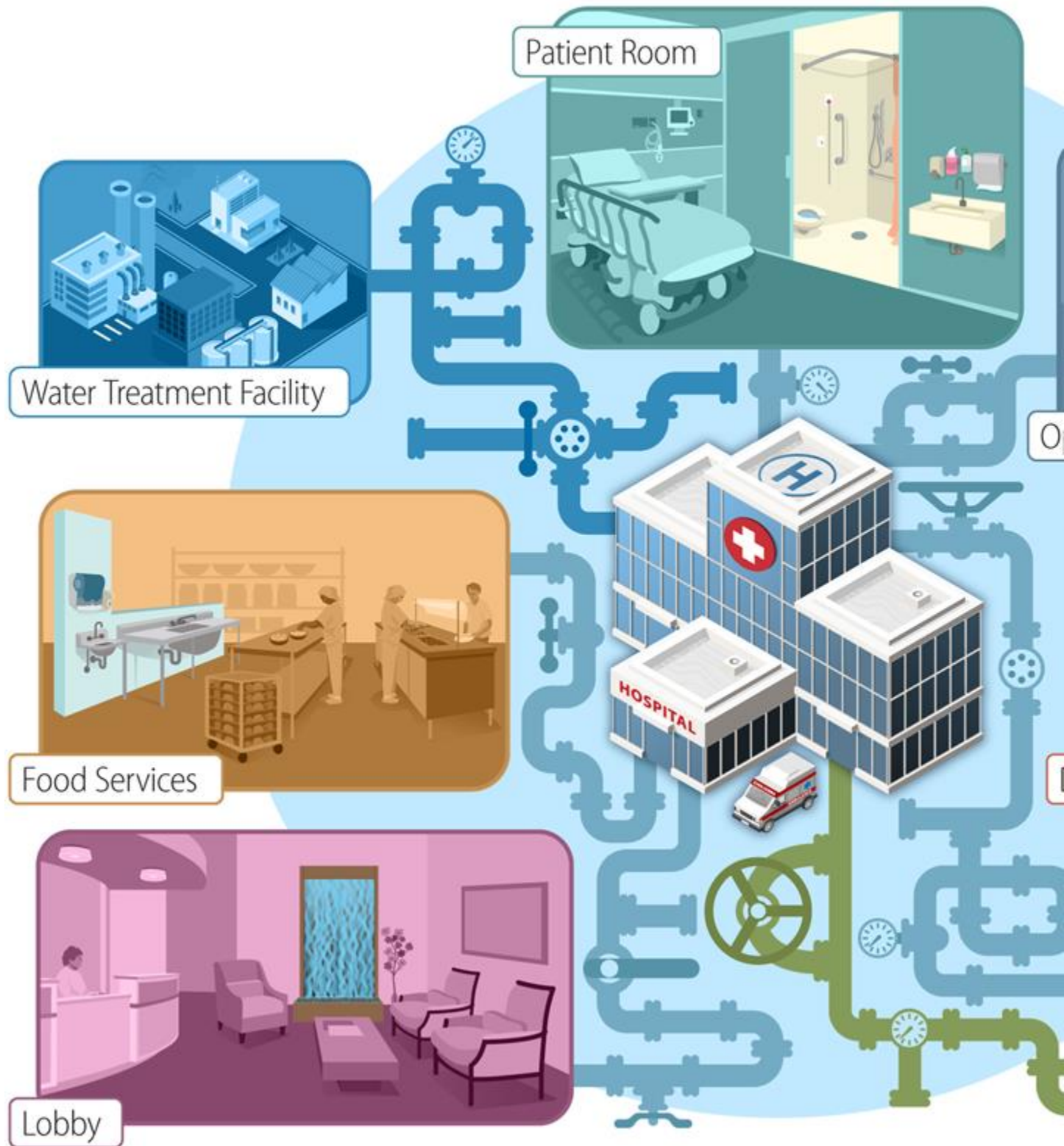


Information regarding drains in hospitals.



[resize iconView Larger](#)

Recent evidence indicates sinks and other drains, such as toilets or hoppers, in healthcare facilities can become contaminated with multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). These pathogens can stick to the pipes to form biofilms, which allow the organisms to persist in drains for long periods of time and are often difficult to impossible to fully remove. Because different types of bacteria may contaminate the same drain, drains can serve as sites where antibiotic resistant genes are transferred between bacterial species.

Patients may be exposed to organisms in drains when water splashes from the drain. Splashes may occur when water flow hits the contaminated drain cover or when a toilet or hopper is flushed. Splashes can lead to dissemination of MDRO-containing droplets, which in turn may contaminate the local environment or the skin of nearby healthcare personnel and patients.

Tools

- [Tap Water Quality and Infrastructure Discussion Guide for Investigation of Potential Water-Associated Infections in Healthcare Facilities pdf icon](#)[PDF – 5 pages]
- [Healthcare Facility Water Management Program Checklist pdf icon](#)[PDF – 4 pages]
- [Infection Control Assessment Tools](#)

https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/water.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fhai%2Fprevent%2Fwater-management.html