

**902 KAR 20:081. Operations and services; home health agencies.**

RELATES TO: KRS 209.032, 216.935, 216.937, 216B.010-216B.130, 216B.990, 311.840(3), 314.011(8), 314.042(8), 320.210(2), 45 C.F.R. Part 160, 164, 42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 216B.042(1)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 216B.042(1) requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to promulgate administrative regulations necessary for the proper administration of the licensure function, which includes establishing licensure standards and procedures to ensure safe, adequate, and efficient health facilities and health services. This administrative regulation establishes the minimum licensure requirements for the operation of and services provided by home health agencies.

Section 1. Definitions. (1) "Coordination agreement" means an agreement to coordinate health care services within the service area of the agency.

(2) "Home health agency" is defined by KRS 216.935(2).

(3) "Home health aide" is defined by KRS 216.935(1).

(4) "Medical social worker" means an individual who:

(a) Has a baccalaureate degree in social work, psychology, sociology, or other field related to social work;

(b) Has at least one (1) year of social work experience in a health care setting; and

(c) Is licensed by the Kentucky Board of Social Work.

(5) "Occupational therapist" is defined by KRS 319A.010(3).

(6) "Physical therapist" is defined by KRS 327.010(2).

(7) "Qualified medical social worker" means an individual who:

(a) Has a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

(b) Has social work experience in a hospital, outpatient clinic, medical rehabilitation, medical care, or mental health program; and

(c) Is licensed by the Kentucky Board of Social Work.

(8) "Speech-language pathologist" is defined by KRS 334A.020(3).

Section 2. Scope. A home health agency shall provide part-time or intermittent health and health related services to a patient in his or her place of residence, either singly or in combination as required by a plan of care prescribed by a licensed physician.

Section 3. Administration and Operation. (1) The licensee shall be legally responsible for:

(a) The operation of the home health agency; and

(b) Compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of the service.

(2) The licensee shall establish policies for the administration and operation of the service. The policies shall include the following:

(a) Acceptance of patients. The policy shall assure that the acceptance of patients is based on medical, nursing, and social information provided by the:

1. Physician responsible for the patient's care;

2. Institutional personnel; and

3. Staff of the home health agency.

(b) Establishment and review of the plan of care. The policy shall assure that services and items provided are specified under a plan of care:

1. Established, signed, and reviewed by the physician who is responsible for the care of the patient; and
2. Developed by the physician and appropriate professional staff acting within the limits of his or her statutory scope of practice.
- (3) Home health services shall be available to the total population regardless of age, sex, and ethnic background.
- (4)(a) The status of each patient and the plan of care shall be reviewed at such intervals as the severity of the patient's illness requires but no less frequently than every two (2) months, with a maximum of sixty (60) days, by home health agency staff and the physician.
- (b) Verbal authorization to change the plan of care shall be:
  1. Put in writing, signed, and dated with the date of receipt by the registered nurse or other appropriate professional staff responsible for furnishing or supervising the order services; and
  2. Signed by the physician within thirty (30) days after the verbal order is issued.
- (5) Clinical records.
  - (a) The home health agency shall maintain a clinical record for each patient that:
    1. Covers the services the agency provides directly and those provided through arrangements with another agency; and
    2. Contains pertinent past and current medical, nursing, and social information, including the plan of care.
  - (b) Ownership.
    1. Medical records shall be the property of the home health agency.
    2. The original medical record shall not be removed except by court order.
    3. Copies of medical records or portions thereof may be used and disclosed in accordance with the requirements established in this administrative regulation.
  - (c) Confidentiality and Security: Use and Disclosure.
    1. The agency shall maintain the confidentiality and security of medical records in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 to 1320d-8, and 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, as amended, including the security requirements mandated by subparts A and C of 45 C.F.R. Part 164, or as provided by applicable federal or state law.
    2. The home health agency may use and disclose clinical records. Use and disclosure shall be as established or required by HIPAA, 42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 to 1320d-8, and 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, or as established in this administrative regulation.
    3. An agency may establish higher levels of confidentiality and security than those required by HIPAA, 42 U.S.C. 1320d-2 to 1320d-8, and 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164.
  - (6) Original drug orders and changes in orders. The following shall be signed by the physician or other prescribing practitioner acting within the statutory scope of his or her license and incorporated in the patient record maintained by the agency:
    - (a) The original drug order; and
    - (b) Changes in orders for the administration of drugs subject to federal and state controlled substance acts, and other legend drugs.
  - (7) Verbal authorization for an original order for drugs or a change order shall be reviewed and signed by the same prescribing practitioner within thirty (30) days after the order is issued.
  - (8) Evaluation.
    - (a) The agency shall have procedures that provide for a systematic evaluation of the agency's program at least once every two (2) years.
    - (b) The agency staff shall conduct the evaluation.
    - (c) The program evaluation shall include measures to determine whether the policies established are followed, including:

1. A review of patient records on a sample basis to determine that services are being used appropriately and the extent to which the needs of the patients the agency serves are being met both quantitatively and qualitatively; and

2. A mechanism for reviewing overall management aspects of the agency's services to assure economy and efficiency of operations.

(9) Planning. Each agency shall develop and annually review a long range plan which includes:

(a) Assessment of needs for services in the service area of the agency;

(b) Identification of agency's role in meeting those needs;

(c) Staff expansion for a two (2) year period;

(d) Establishment of goals and objectives; and

(e) Coordination of volunteer services, community education, and community development activities if these services are provided by the agency.

(10) Subdivision operating as home health agency.

(a) If a subdivision of an agency, including the home care department of a hospital or the nursing division of a health department, applies for a license, the subdivision shall:

1. Be licensed as a home health agency; and

2. Maintain records of the subdivision's activities, ensuring that expenditures attributable to the services provided are identifiable.

(b) The parent organization shall determine who:

1. Signs each coordination agreement and other official documents; and

2. Receives and disburses funds.

Section 4. Personnel; Supervision and Training. (1) Personnel policies. The agency shall have written policies available to staff concerning qualifications, responsibilities, and conditions of employment for each type of personnel (including whether licensure is required by state law). The policies shall cover:

(a) Wage scales, hours of work, vacation, and sick leave;

(b) A plan for a preemployment medical examination and follow-up medical examination no less than every three (3) years thereafter for agency staff who serve patients in their place of residence;

(c) Annual tuberculin screening conducted pursuant to 902 KAR 20:205;

(d) Plans for orientation and for on-the-job training;

(e) Annual evaluation of employee performance;

(f) Job descriptions for each category of health personnel which are specific to the type of activity each may carry out;

(g) Pre-employment abuse registry checks conducted pursuant to KRS 216.937 and KRS 209.032; and

(h) Pre-employment criminal background checks in which the agency shall not employ an individual in a position that involves providing direct services if the individual has been convicted of a:

1. Felony offense related to:

a. Theft;

b. Abuse, possession, or sale of illegal drugs;

c. Abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child or an adult; or

d. A sexual crime; or

2. Misdemeanor offense related to abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult.

(2) Agency supervision. The home health agency shall designate a physician or registered nurse to supervise the agency's performance in providing home health services in accordance

with the:

- (a) Orders of the physician responsible for the care of the patient; and
- (b) Plan of care established by the physician.
- (3) Supervision of therapy services.

(a) If the services of aides or other personnel providing supplementary services are utilized in providing home health services, the staff shall be trained and supervised by a qualified practitioner responsible for the delivery or supervision of services within the practitioner's scope of licensure.

(b) If supervision is less than full-time, the supervision shall:

- 1. Be provided on a planned basis; and
- 2. Assure adequate review of each individual plan of care and progress.

(4) Supervision of home health aides.

(a) A registered nurse shall provide direct supervision as described in this subsection and be readily available at other times by telephone.

(b) The supervisor shall evaluate the home health aide closely to ensure the aide's competence in providing care, including the aide's ability to:

- 1. Carry out assigned duties;
- 2. Relate well to the patient; and
- 3. Work effectively as a member of a team of health workers.

(c) If the patient receives skilled nursing care or another skilled service, the registered nurse or a qualified practitioner responsible for the delivery or supervision of services within the practitioner's scope of licensure shall make a supervisory visit to the patient's residence at least every two (2) weeks when the aide is:

- 1. Present to observe and assist; or
- 2. Absent to assess relationships and determine whether goals are being met.

(d) If home health aide services are provided to a patient who is not receiving skilled nursing care or another skilled service, the registered nurse shall make a supervisory visit to the patient's residence at least every sixty (60) days and the supervisory visit shall occur while the home health aide is providing patient care.

(5) Training of home health aides. The home health agency shall ensure that each home health aide successfully completes an aide training and competency evaluation program, including training in:

- (a) Methods of assisting patients to achieve maximum self-reliance;
- (b) Principles of nutrition and meal preparation;
- (c) The aging process and the emotional problems of illness;
- (d) Procedures for maintaining a clean, healthful, and pleasant environment;
- (e) Awareness of changes in the patient's condition that should be reported;
- (f) Work of the agency and the health team; and
- (g) Ethics, confidentiality, and recordkeeping.

Section 5. Provision of Services. (1) The home health agency shall provide:

- (a) Part-time or intermittent skilled nursing services; and
- (b) Other services for restoring, maintaining, and promoting health or rehabilitation with minimum disruption of daily living, including:

- 1. At least one (1) other therapeutic service (physical, speech, or occupational therapy);
- 2. Medical social services; or
- 3. Home health aide services.

(2) Services shall be available five (5) days a week with back-up arrangements for weekend and emergency services.

(3) In addition to the services described in subsection (1) of this section, the agency may

provide:

(a) Medical supplies; or

(b) Equipment services.

(4) The following conditions shall be met for the provision of therapeutic and medical social services:

(a) Physical, speech, or occupational therapy. An agency that provides or arranges for physical, speech, or occupational therapy directly or under a contractual arrangement shall provide the service in accordance with a physician's written order by or under the supervision of a therapist defined by Section 1(5), (6), or (8) of this administrative regulation.

(b) Respiratory therapy. An agency that provides or arranges for respiratory therapy directly or under a contractual arrangement shall provide the service in accordance with a physician's written order by or under the supervision of a licensed nurse with experience and training in the field of respiratory therapy.

(c) Medical social services. An agency that provides or arranges for medical social services directly or under a contractual arrangement shall provide the service in accordance with a physician's written order by a medical social worker or a qualified medical social worker as defined by Section 1(4) or (7) of this administrative regulation.

(5) Home health aide services. A visit by a home health aide for the provision of personal care and other related health services shall be:

(a) Ordered by a physician; and

(b) Included in a plan of care approved by the physician.

(6) Services arranged with another provider. A home health agency that makes arrangements for the provision of home health services by another agency shall establish a written agreement that:

(a) Identifies each service provided under the agreement;

(b) Ensures that the services shall be provided within the scope and limitations set forth in the plan of care;

(c) Allows for services to be altered only upon the specific order of the initiating home health agency as the result of a change made by the physician in the patient's plan of care;

(d) Describes how the contracted personnel shall be supervised;

(e) Requires contract personnel to record progress notes and observations in the home health agency records for purposes of planning and evaluating patient care;

(f) Assures that the contract agency's staff and services meet the requirements established in this administrative regulation for personnel qualifications, functions, supervision, orientation, and training; and

(g) Specifies the period of time the written agreement shall be in effect and how frequently the agreement shall be reviewed.

(7) Service agreements with other health care facilities. A home health agency shall establish a coordination agreement defined by Section 1(1) of this administrative regulation with health care providers in the agency's service area including hospitals and long-term care facilities. (8 Ky.R. 243; eff. 11-5-1981; 16 Ky.R. 998; eff. 1-12-1990; 25 Ky.R. 623; 1071; 1364; eff. 12-16-1998; 43 Ky.R. 1311; 1782; 1955; eff. 6-2-2017.)