



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Long-term Care **NEWSLETTER**

LTC Newsletter 2022-33
September 1, 2022

LTC Update:

- **LTC Leadership Conference Registration Open**
- **NATCEP, CMS Waivers and the Nurse Aide in Training Registry**
- **Delays in Individuals Appearing on the Aide Registry**
- **Updates to CMS Requirements**

LTC Leadership Conference Registration Open

Registration is now open for the Indiana Healthcare Leadership Conference “Working Together for Solutions to Mental Health Challenges in Long-Term Care.” The conference will be held Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Participants have the option to attend in person or virtually. Please click the link below for more information and to register.

[IDOH Healthcare Leadership Conference](#)

NATCEP, CMS Waivers and the Nurse Aide in Training Registry

CMS released revised memo [QSO-22-15-NH-NLTC & LSC](#) on Aug. 29, 2022, with more information related to waivers of nurse aide training competency and evaluation (NATCEP) requirements.

CMS is aware that there may be instances in which the number of aides who must complete a state-approved NATCEP exceed the available capacity for enrollees in a training program or taking the exam, causing delays in nurse aides becoming certified. Many individuals will need to be

certified by Oct. 6, which is 4 months after the federal waiver ended that allowed nurse aides to work 8 months, rather than 4 months, before completing their training and testing. When capacity issues exist, facilities should inform their state agency, which should then verify the capacity issues. The revised memo indicates CMS will review waiver requests from individual facilities, counties or entire states.

IDOH created the Nurse Aide in Training Registry to provide a record of nurse aides in training in nursing facilities in Indiana. Having this information will allow IDOH to identify whether actual capacity issues exist with training and testing. If they do exist, IDOH will need this information to request a waiver from CMS.

Thank you to those facilities that have been entering their nurse aides in training on the new Nurse Aide in Training Registry. More than 100 facilities have reported nearly 1,000 nurse aides in training, but there are many more nurse aides in training who are not yet on this registry.

Nursing facilities should be completing the survey for any nurse aides hired who are not yet certified. This would include former PCAs and TNAs who did not complete their nurse aide training prior to July 1 but who are enrolled in a nurse aide training program with the intention of completing the training, testing and certification.

The REDCap Nurse Aide in Training Registry can be accessed with the following link:
<https://redcap.isdh.in.gov/surveys/?s=CMWRXH9J4C>.

Any questions regarding the Nurse Aide in Training Registry may be directed to Suzanne Williams at suwilliams@isdh.in.gov.

Delays in Individuals Appearing on the Aide Registry

There are still individuals who passed their competency exam (for CNA, QMA, QMA-Insulin) months ago yet are not on the Aide Registry. Almost all of these individuals are from before or during the changeover at Ivy Tech, when Statewide Testing Services took over the testing from Health Sciences. Ivy Tech has been working to identify a solution to correct this issue, but they are not currently able to run a report of individuals who passed their exam but have not been placed on the registry. If you know of an individual in this situation who tested prior to June, please contact cna_qma_testing@ivytech.edu with the subject "Registry" and provide:

- Candidate name
- Last 4 of SSN or DOB
- Date tested
- Copy of pass letter from Ivy Tech

Ivy Tech can very quickly resolve these issues once they are brought to their attention.

Updates to CMS Requirements

CMS is finalizing two proposals to revise the requirements for participation for long-term care facilities, which were originally included in the 2019 "Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities: Provisions to Promote Efficiency and Transparency" Proposed Rule:

Updates to the Physical Environment Requirements

CMS is updating the physical environment requirements to allow facilities to avoid unnecessary renovation expenses and prevent access to care issues associated with the potential closure of LTC facilities. Specifically, CMS is allowing LTC facilities that were participating in Medicare before July 5, 2016, and that previously used the Fire Safety Evaluation System (FSES) to determine equivalent fire protection levels to continue to use the 2001 FSES mandatory values when determining compliance for containment, extinguishment and people movement requirements. This will allow existing LTC facilities that previously met the FSES requirements to continue to do so without incurring great expense to change construction type (essentially undertaking an effort to completely rebuild to maintain compliance), while maintaining resident health and safety.

Changes to the Qualification Requirements for the Director of Food and Nutrition Services

CMS is finalizing a proposal, with some modifications, to revise the existing qualification requirements for the Director of Food and Nutrition Services in LTC facilities. Currently, the Director of Food and Nutrition Services must meet specific educational requirements or hold certain certifications. CMS is revising the required qualifications for a Director of Food and Nutrition Services to provide that those with several years of experience performing this specific role in a facility may continue to do so. Specifically, CMS added to the current requirements that individuals with two or more years of experience in the position of a Director of Food and Nutrition Services and who have also completed a minimum course of study in food safety that includes topics integral to managing dietary operations (such as, but not limited to, foodborne illness, sanitation procedures, food purchasing/receiving, etc.) can continue to qualify for this position. We believe that this will help address concerns related to the lack of access to qualified staff as well as the costs associated with training for existing staff.

These updates will go into effect on Oct. 1, 2022.