

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15G786	X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING 00 B. WING _____	X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 08/08/2022
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NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER PATHFINDER SERVICES INC	STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 1570 JESSUP STREET HUNTINGTON, IN 46750
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W 0000 Bldg. 00	<p>This visit was for the investigation of complaint #IN00380687.</p> <p>Complaint #IN00380687: Substantiated, Federal and State deficiency related to the allegation(s) is cited at W339.</p> <p>Dates of Survey: 8/1, 8/2, 8/4, 8/5, and 8/8/2022.</p> <p>Facility number: 012414 Provider Number: 15G786 AIMS Number: 200998980</p> <p>This federal deficiency also reflects a state finding in accordance with 460 IAC 9. Quality Review of this report completed by #15068 on 8/18/22.</p>	W 0000		
W 0339 Bldg. 00	<p>483.460(c)(4) NURSING SERVICES</p> <p>Nursing services must include other nursing care as prescribed by the physician or as identified by client needs.</p> <p>Based on record review and interview for 1 of 3 sampled clients (client A), the facility's nursing services failed to ensure client A was assessed timely by a medical professional following a choking incident which required the Heimlich maneuver, to ensure the facility staff followed the choking guidelines to notify 9-1-1, and to ensure the facility staff documented the aspiration monitoring.</p> <p>Findings include:</p> <p>On 8/1/2022 at 8:00pm and on 8/4/2022 at 10:00am, the facility's BDDS (Bureau of Developmental</p>	W 0339	<p>POC for tag number W339: Nursing Services -Director of Residential Services is creating a procedure for DSPs to follow regarding: Activating EMS/9-1-1 Obtaining an assessment from EMT responders Monitoring the individual, notifying the nurse, and completing all required documentation/follow-up -Policy for emergency medical treatment following a choking intervention to be created and</p>	09/16/2022

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

(X6) DATE

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (see instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosed days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

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	<p>Disability Services) reports were reviewed from 5/1/2022 through 8/1/2022 and indicated the following choking incident:</p> <p>-The 5/19/2022 BDDS report for client A's choking incident on 5/18/2022 at 5:00pm indicated client A "was eating dinner with his peers when he stuffed half of a cheeseburger into his mouth to eat. He started choking with an inability to breathe. Staff performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully removing the food, while another staff called the nurse. [Client A] was then able to talk and breathe normally. Staff initiated aspiration tracking and [client A] resumed his meal. Plan to resolve: Staff to continue monitoring [client A] and report any concerns as required. Staff to ensure [client A's] foods are cut into bite sized pieces to discourage him from taking large bites."</p> <p>Client A's record was reviewed on 8/5/2022 at 10:15am. Client A's 8/23/2021 ISP (Individual Support Plan) indicated he was on a regular diet. Client A's record indicated a 6/28/2022 swallow study which indicated client A was at risk to choke and a recommendation for "Consistency of diet: Mechanically soft with moist ground meat."</p> <p>Client A's 5/19/2022 "High Risk Plan" indicated "Dysphagia/Dining Protocol. Difficulty swallowing is called Dysphagia. It is usually a sign of a problem with the throat or esophagus. Some individuals have limited awareness of their Dysphagia, so lack of the symptom does not exclude an underlying disease. When Dysphagia goes undiagnosed or untreated, individuals are at a high risk of aspiration and subsequent aspiration pneumonia secondary to food or liquids going the wrong way into the lungs...Undiagnosed Dysphagia can also result in dehydration, malnutrition, and renal</p>		<p>presented to Pathfinder Services, Inc. Board of Directors for approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Training on new policy to be completed for all DSPs immediately and as required by the American Red Cross guidelines -Oversight by Human Resource training staff and agency medical personnel to be completed per incident -September 16, 2022 	

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	<p>failure...Choking: airway is blocked and this is a medical emergency because of lack of oxygen to the brain. If choking call 9-1-1. [Client A's] current diet order is mechanical soft with moist ground meats, he does need assistance with cutting up his foods into bite size pieces. Regular fluid consistency. Encourage to eat slowly and take smaller bites, drink between bites in effort to reduce risk for coughing/choking when eating. Monitor [client A] to assure he does not stuff his mouth too full. [Client A] has had an episode of choking, the Heimlich maneuver was performed. [Client A] is to continue regular diet at this time, staff to be aware of choking risk."</p> <p>Client A's 5/18/2022 "Aspiration Pneumonia Tracking" indicated "Whenever there is an instance of a client choking and staff needing to perform the Heimlich maneuver or any other intervention to help clear the airway, tracking needs to be started and completed through the next 5 days to track for any signs of aspiration pneumonia." The tracking sheet indicated it was completed by the facility staff on 5/18/22, 5/19/22, and 5/20/22. The tracking sheet indicated on 5/21/22 the assessment was not completed and on 5/22/22 client A had "refused" the assessment.</p> <p>Client A's 5/19/2022 "Choking/Aspiration Risk Assessment" indicated a score of "8" which "Number of items checked...High Risk = (equals) score 8 or above, needs specialized risk plan. Recommendations: Score of 8 total, Needs specialized HRP (High Risk Plan), [Name of nurse] to update. Encourage to eat slowly and to take smaller bites and to take a drink between bites in effort to reduce risk for coughing/choking when eating. Assist as needed to cut food items to appropriate size in light of dexterity issues. Assist in cutting up large pieces of fruits and raw</p>			

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	<p>vegetables."</p> <p>On 8/5/2022 at 9:14am, the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) provided client A's 5/19/22 nurses notes. Client A's 5/19/2022 "Nurses Note" indicated "Writer was called per [DSP (Direct Support Professional) #5], working at individual's house and stated that she needed to report an incident of choking with [Client A]. [Client A] was sitting at the dinner table and proceeded to put too much food in his mouth at one time and started to choke on the food. [DSP #5] noticed this and went to [Client A], this is what was told to writer on the phone per [DSP #5], [DSP #5] performed 5 firm back blows between the shoulder blades with the heel of her hand per her training and certification of CPR/First Aid. [Client A] was sitting in a chair, she positioned herself to the side of [Client A] to complete the back blows as she bent him over at the waist and placed an arm over his chest for support. [DSP #5] was unable to quickly assist [Client A] in standing up straight, to perform abdominal thrusts with her two hands, she wrapped her arms around [Client A] while he continued to sit in his chair. Once [DSP #5] had completed two abdominal thrusts per training with First Aid/CPR, [Client A] was able to cough up the food in his mouth and throat. [Client A] coughed for approximately 1-2 minutes after removal of all food in his mouth. He was given small sips of beverage and when asked if okay, he nodded and stated 'yes, ok.' [Client A] was given a different plate of food and staff assured the food was cut up into small bite size pieces, nurse encouraged this on the phone with [DSP #5] and agreed it was okay for [Client A] to continue eating his meal at that time. [Client A] had no further struggles with swallowing or eating his food throughout meal time. Writer requested [DSP #5] get the aspiration pneumonia tracker sheet</p>			
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	<p>and start it as soon as possible due to incident. Nurse followed up with staff later in the evening to question [Client A's] temperature, asked if any wheezing or coarse cough was heard; staff replied no, he has not been coughing and his temp was 97.3 before bed. Writer assessed [Client A] the following morning at day services, lung sounds auscultated and were clear to all fields. [Client A] does have drooling, but this is normal. No cough noted, temp is 96.9. Nurse assured tracking sheet was at day services for staff to continue to fill out and monitor. Nurse also completed an updated choking/aspiration assessment, which scored 8 (high risk). Due to high risk, recommendation is to have specialized HRP, nurse to update. Staff at the house and day services educated to encourage [Client A] to eat slowly, take smaller bites and drink between bites in effort to reduce risk for coughing/choking when eating. Assist as needed to cut food items to appropriate size in light of dexterity issues. Assist in cutting up large pieces of fruits and raw vegetables. Monitor episodic gastric reflux and vomiting for worsening. The assessment completed per nurse scored higher (8) than when completed per dietician (4) in Feb. (February), 2022. Writer faxed dietician updated assessment completed and notified her of incident of choking on 5.18.22 (sic). HRP updated per nurse and aspiration tracking continued per protocol. Writer also called [Name of hospital] therapy and requested to schedule a swallow study with the speech pathologist. Writer requested this due to choking incident and wanting further instruction of diet plan that best suits [Client A]. [Client A] is to go home with [name of family] for a couple days, writer called to update parents of this incident and gave education on monitoring and assisting to cut up food. Swallow study scheduled for June 28, 2022," signed by the LPN.</p>			

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	<p>On 8/4/2022 at 10:00pm, a review of the undated "Skill Sheet 4-1. Caring for an Adult Who is Choking" indicated the steps to follow to administer the Heimlich maneuver to a choking adult" and the guidelines for the "American Red Cross Training." The Skill Sheet indicated "1. Verify that the person is choking...If the person is unable to speak to you or is coughing weakly; Send someone to call 9-1-1 or the designated emergency number" and follow the steps "2. Give 5 back blows...3. Give 5 abdominal thrusts."</p> <p>On 8/4/2022 at 10:00pm, a review of the undated "American Red Cross Training" guide and the 9/4/2019 "What You Should Know About Choking" indicated "Choking happens when food or a foreign object gets stuck in your throat or windpipe blocking the flow of air...Choking is a life threatening emergency." The guide for "What You Should Know About Choking" indicated "If you or a loved one experiences choking call your local emergency services and perform rescue techniques such as the Heimlich maneuver immediately."</p> <p>On 8/5/2022 at 3:05pm, an interview was conducted with the LPN. The LPN stated she completed a medical assessment for client A "the following day" after staff had performed the Heimlich maneuver on 5/18/2022. The LPN indicated emergency services were not contacted when client A choked and after the staff performed the Heimlich maneuver. The LPN indicated 9-1-1 was not called when client A choked on 5/18/2022. The LPN stated the staff had completed the "American Red Cross" training to perform the Heimlich maneuver and "I don't understand why emergency services would need called when staff were able to dislodge the food."</p>			

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

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	<p>The LPN indicated staff did perform back blows and abdominal thrusts which were both procedures that could have caused injury to client A. The LPN stated "I assessed him the next day." The LPN stated client A was not assessed by a medical professional after he choked and required the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge the "chunks of food" from his throat to ensure client A did not have injuries from the maneuver and possible aspiration. The LPN stated client A was at "a moderate risk to choke before 5/18/2022."</p> <p>This federal tag relates to complaint #IN00380687.</p> <p>9-3-6(a)</p>				