

ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue # 09-19
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Aide Testing Program

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) wishes to inform you about a significant change in the certified nurse aide and qualified medication aide testing program. For many years, the ISDH has utilized Professional Resources as the approved testing entity for the both the Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) and Qualified Medication Aide (QMA) Competence Evaluations. Professional Resources recently informed the ISDH of their intent to retire and cease their testing services. This will therefore require a change in aide testing.

Thanks to Professional Resources

First, the ISDH would like to thank everyone connected with Professional Resources for their important contribution to improving health care quality in Indiana. We particularly express our gratitude to Eileen Heinz and Pamela Davis for their many years of dedicated service. Throughout the years, Professional Resources has maintained a high standard of excellence and professionalism. They have provided an efficient, consistent and personal atmosphere during what can be a stressful, anxious time for the applicants and training programs. Professional Resources has been testing CNAs since 1993 and QMAs since 2001. At last count, they have administered 96,031 tests to 80,877 individuals. The ISDH thanks them for their years of service and wishes them well.

New Testing Entity

Professional Resources will be retiring effective July 1, 2009. All requests for testing should continue to go to Professional Resources through June 30, 2009. The ISDH will provide directions close to that date as to contact information for future testing.

The ISDH announces that Ivy Tech Community College has been approved to assume the aide testing program. Applicants will be able to test at any of the 26 Ivy Tech Community College campuses throughout the state. The ISDH has been working with Ivy Tech on transitioning the aide testing program. Specific instructions regarding this transition will be issued within the next two weeks. The ISDH and Ivy Tech recognize the importance of a smooth transition and are working hard to foresee and resolve any problems prior to the transfer of the testing program.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Adams, R.N., at 317-233-7480 or nadams@isdh.in.gov.

Update on H1N1 Virus

Indiana Update on H1N1 Virus

As of June 4, the Indiana State Department of Health reports 173 confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu in Indiana along the following county breakdown:

- Allen (2)
- Daviess (1)
- Elkhart (2)
- Hamilton (4)
- Hendricks (2)
- Lake (54)
- Madison (1)
- Marion (89)
- Monroe (3)
- Porter (5)
- Putnam (3)
- St. Joseph (2)
- Tippecanoe (5)

There has been a total of 13 hospitalizations associated with the novel H1N1 influenza A virus in Indiana since April 20, 2009. There are currently no reported deaths associated with the H1N1 influenza A virus in Indiana.

As of June 5, 2009 there were 13,217 cases confirmed in the United States and cases have been reported in all 50 states. There were 27 deaths caused by H1N1 and more than 1,000 hospitalizations. The majority of those hospitalized have had underlying chronic disease. About 40% of those hospitalized had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which is caused by smoking or asthma.

Directive on Antiviral Drugs At or Near Expiration

During this public health emergency, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued Emergency Use Authorizations that expand access to medical products that may become necessary. Two of these antiviral treatments, Tamiflu (oseltamavir) and Relenza (zanamivir), may already be included in emergency stockpiles.

Those entities with supplies of Tamiflu and Relenza that are approaching, or past, the labeled expiration date, are urged to consider keeping it while the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services evaluates options, including those that may allow for their use if needed during this 2009 H1N1 flu virus outbreak.

If the stockpiling entity decides to retain expired or soon-to-expire Tamiflu and Relenza, it should be maintained and monitored under the product's labeled storage conditions.

This statement is not directed to individual patients who already have these two products in their homes. Individuals with these products should continue to follow the directions from their doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

The FDA statement may be found at <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm154962.htm>

Question About Impact of Expired Antivirals on State Surveys

Because of the current emergency, FDA is suggesting that health care facilities hold on to Tamiflu and Relenza stockpiles that are nearing expiration or past expiration while the FDA evaluates its possible future use. Facilities have been concerned that they are not cited on surveys for having expired medications. State surveyors have been instructed not to cite a facility or agency for retaining these antivirals pending evaluation of their future use. Expired Tamiflu and Relenza doses should be quarantined from the active supplies pending determination by FDA of a possible future use.

Obtaining Emergency Stockpile Materials

The Division of Long Term Care has received inquiries from long term care facilities regarding how they are to obtain flu vaccine (should one become available for the H1N1 virus), antiviral medications such as Tamiflu, and supplies such as N95 respirators during emergency situations such as the current H1N1 outbreak. The question relates to the emergency stockpile and how the state distributes those materials.

The stockpile materials are only used when the private sector supply is depleted. Health care facilities should go through their usual pharmacy or supplier for as long as that pharmacy or supplier has a supply. When an emergency occurs and supplies are depleted, emergency stockpile materials will be shipped to local health departments. Therefore, if the pharmacy or supplier runs out, the health care facility would need to work with their local health department to obtain vaccines or supplies. As part of their emergency planning, health care facilities need to communicate with their local health department to plan for these potential emergencies and obtaining emergency materials.

A few health care facilities have reported to the ISDH that their local health departments have been telling them that the local health department is not responsible for long term care facilities and they need to obtain their supplies through the ISDH. The ISDH will not be providing emergency materials directly to health care facilities. The local health departments should be working with the local long term care facilities. The ISDH plans to review the local plans this summer and focus attention on at-risk populations. We will include this as an emphasis item during this review.

Qualified Medication Aide Renewals

There are still approximately 450 qualified medication aides (QMAs) in Indiana that have not renewed their certifications. The QMA certification cannot be renewed until both the fee and inservice hours have been submitted and approved. Approximately 30 QMAs have paid on line, but have not submitted the required inservice hours. The deadline for acceptance of renewal information is June 30, 2009. QMAs that submit information after June 30, 2009 will not be renewed. The individual will then be required complete the 100 hour QMA course and pass the competence test to be certified.

Recall of Skin Products Made by Clarcon

FDA has notified consumers and healthcare professionals that Clarcon Biological Chemistry Laboratory is recalling some skin sanitizers and skin protectants because of high levels of disease-causing bacteria found in the product. During an FDA inspection, analyses of samples of several of these products revealed high levels of various bacteria, including some associated with unsanitary conditions. Some of these bacteria can cause opportunistic infections of the skin and underlying tissues. Such infections may need medical or surgical attention, and may result in permanent damage. These findings are particularly concerning because the products are promoted as antimicrobial agents that claim to treat open wounds, damaged skin, and protect against various infectious diseases. FDA is warning consumers to not use any Clarcon products and should throw these products away in household refuse.

[Read the complete MedWatch 2009 Safety summary](#) (includes a link to the FDA News Release)

Best wishes for the coming week.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health

The logo for the Indiana State Department of Health features a teal-to-white gradient bar on the left. To the right of the bar, the words "Indiana State" are written in a small, white, sans-serif font above the words "Department of Health", which are in a larger, white, sans-serif font.

Indiana State
Department of Health

Visit the ISDH home page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/> for the latest public health information.

Visit the ISDH Division of Long Term Care home page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23260.htm> for information on long term care.