

WAC 388-97-1620 General administration. (1) The nursing home must be administered in a manner that enables it to use its resources effectively and efficiently to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident.

(2) The nursing home must:

(a) Be licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW;

(b) Operate and provide services in compliance with:

(i) All applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and codes;

(ii) Accepted professional standards and principles that apply to professionals providing services in nursing homes; and

(c) Have a governing body or designated individuals functioning as a governing body, that is legally responsible for establishing and implementing policies regarding the management and operation of the nursing home.

(3) The governing body of the nursing home must appoint the administrator who:

(a) Is licensed by the state;

(b) Is responsible for management of the nursing home;

(c) Keeps the licensee informed of all surveys and notices of noncompliance;

(d) Complies with all requirements of chapter 18.52 RCW, and all regulations adopted under that chapter;

(e) Is an on-site, full-time individual in active administrative charge at the premises of only one nursing home, a minimum of four days and an average of forty hours per week except as provided in WAC 246-843-010.

(4) Nursing homes temporarily without an administrator may operate up to four continuous weeks under a responsible individual authorized to act as nursing home administrator designee.

(a) The designee must be qualified by experience to assume designated duties; and

(b) The nursing home must have a written agreement with a nursing home administrator, licensed in the state of Washington, who must be readily available to consult with the designee.

(c) The nursing home may make a written request to the department's designated aging and disability services administration field office for an extension of the four weeks by stating why an extension is needed, how a resident's safety or well-being is maintained during an extension and giving the estimated date by which a full-time, qualified nursing home administrator will be on-site.

(5) The nursing home must employ on a full-time, part time or consultant basis those professionals necessary to carry out the requirements of this chapter.

(6) If the nursing home does not employ a qualified professional individual to furnish a specific service to be provided by the nursing home, the nursing home must:

(a) Have that service furnished to residents by an individual or agency outside the nursing home under a written arrangement or agreement; and

(b) Ensure the arrangement or agreement referred to in (a) of this subsection specifies in writing that the nursing home assumes responsibility for:

(i) Obtaining services that meet professional standards and principles that apply to professionals providing services in nursing homes; and

(ii) The timeliness of services.

(7) The nursing home must:

(a) Report to the local law enforcement agency and the department any individual threatening bodily harm or causing a disturbance which threatens any individual's welfare and safety;

(b) Identify, investigate, and report incidents involving residents, according to department established nursing home guidelines; and

(c) Comply with "whistle blower" rules as defined in chapter 74.34 RCW.

(8) The department will:

(a) Investigate complaints, made to the department according to established protocols including protocols described in RCW 74.39A.060;

(b) Take action against a nursing home that is found to have used retaliatory treatment toward a resident or employee who has voiced grievances to nursing home staff or administration, or lodged a good faith complaint with the department; and

(c) Report to local law enforcement:

(i) Any mandated reporter that knowingly fails to report in accordance with WAC 388-97-0640; and

(ii) Any person that intentionally, maliciously or in bad faith makes a false report of alleged abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult.

(9) Refer also to WAC 388-97-1840, Retaliation.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW. WSR 13-04-093, § 388-97-1620, filed 2/6/13, effective 3/9/13. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW and 42 C.F.R. 489.52. WSR 08-20-062, § 388-97-1620, filed 9/24/08, effective 11/1/08.]