

WAC 246-335-545 Supervision of home health services. (1) A licensee must employ a director of clinical services.

(2) The director of clinical services must designate in writing a similarly qualified alternate to act in the director's absence.

(3) The licensee shall ensure the director of clinical services and the designated alternate completes a minimum of 10 hours of training annually. Written documentation of trainings must be available upon request by the department. Training may include a combination of topics related to clinical supervision duties and the delivery of home health services. Examples of appropriate training include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Agency sponsored in-services;
- (b) Community venues;
- (c) Community classes;
- (d) Conferences;
- (e) Seminars;

(f) Continuing education related to the director's health care professional credential, if applicable; and

(g) Supervisory responsibilities in the event of a natural disaster, man-made incident, or public health emergency.

(4) The director of clinical services or designee must be available during all hours patient care is being provided.

(5) The director of clinical services or designee must ensure:

(a) Coordination, development, and revision of written patient care policies and procedures related to each service provided;

(b) Supervision of all patient care provided by personnel and volunteers. The director of clinical services may delegate staff supervision responsibilities to a registered nurse or other appropriately credentialed professional;

(c) Evaluation of services provided by contractors;

(d) Coordination of services when one or more licensed agencies are providing care to the patient;

(e) Compliance with the plan of care;

(f) All direct care personnel, contractors, and volunteers observe and recognize changes in the patient's condition and needs, and report any changes to the director of clinical services or designee; and

(g) All direct care personnel, contractors, and volunteers initiate emergency procedures according to agency policy.

(6) The licensee must document supervision including, but not limited to:

(a) RN supervision when using the services of an RN or LPN, in accordance with chapter 18.79 RCW; and

(b) Licensed therapist supervision when using the services of a therapy assistant in accordance with the appropriate practice acts.

(7) For patients receiving acute care services, supervision of the home health aide services with or without the home health aide present must occur once a month to evaluate compliance with the plan of care and patient satisfaction with care. The supervisory visit may be conducted on-site, via telemedicine, or via audio-only telemedicine and must be conducted by a licensed nurse or therapist in accordance with the appropriate practice acts.

(8) For patients receiving maintenance care or home health aide only services, supervision of the home health aide services with or without the home health aide present must occur every six months to evaluate compliance with the plan of care and patient satisfaction with care. The supervisory visit may be conducted on-site, via teleme-

dicine, or via audio-only telemedicine and must be conducted by a licensed nurse or licensed therapist in accordance with the appropriate practice acts.

(9) A supervisory visit conducted via audio-only telemedicine in subsection (7) or (8) of this section is only permitted for patients that have an established relationship with the provider consistent with WAC 246-335-510(8).

(10) A supervisory visit conducted via telemedicine or via audio-only telemedicine in subsection (7) or (8) of this section may not be used to fulfill the annual performance evaluations and on-site observation of care and skills requirements in WAC 246-335-525(16).

(11) The licensee using home health aides must ensure:

(a) Each home health aide reviews the plan of care and any additional written instructions for the care of each patient prior to providing home health aide services and whenever there is a change in the plan of care; and

(b) Each home health aide assists with medications according to agency policy and this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.127.120, 43.70.250, 2021 c 157, and 2022 c 213. WSR 23-01-032, § 246-335-545, filed 12/11/22, effective 1/11/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.127.120 and 43.70.250. WSR 18-06-093, § 246-335-545, filed 3/6/18, effective 4/6/18.]