

BQC - 90 - 089

Date: October 22, 1990

To: All Home Health Agencies

From: Larry Tainter, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

Subject: Training and Testing Requirements for Personal Care Workers

The Bureau of Quality Compliance has received many inquiries regarding the applicability of federal and state home health aide training and testing requirements to personal care workers.

As noted in BQC memo 90-067, federal requirements for training and competency evaluation of home health aides apply to all personal care workers employed by a federally certified home health agency. State requirements for the training and competency evaluation of home health aides do not apply to personal care workers.

Personal care workers, employed by licensed-only home health agencies, providing services described as personal care on client service agreements and in agency policies, and reimbursed as personal care services, are not required to meet the competency requirements of the federal home health conditions of participation. The Bureau of Quality Compliance has no immediate plans to require personal care workers to meet the state requirements for home health aides contained in state statute at 146.60(2) and, in fact, the Legislature previously considered but failed to enact this requirement. If, however, personal care workers wish to be included on the Wisconsin Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide Registry, they must meet the eligibility requirements contained in 146.60(2) for nurse assistants and home health aides.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Krill at (608) 266-9433 or Phyllis Tschumper at (608) 266-0701.

LT:PT:bc 3366

cc: -Wis. Assoc. of Homes & Services for the Aging
-Wisconsin Association of Nursing Homes
-Wisconsin Counties Association
-Wisconsin Medical Records Assoc. Consultants Committee
-Service Employees International Union, local 150
-Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy
-Committee on Aging, Extended Care Facilities & HH Care (SMS)
-Wisconsin Assoc. of Medical Directors
-George F. MacKenzie
-Director, BHCF
-Jerry Born, Div. of Care & Treatment Facilities
-Jerry Sandlin, HCFA, Chicago
-Wisconsin Hospital Association
-Wisconsin Homecare Organization
-Hospice Organization of Wisconsin