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(1) The hospice is located in a non-urbanized area as determined by the Bureau of the Census.

(2) The hospice provides evidence that it had made a good faith effort to make available physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling services on a 24-hour basis and/or to hire a dietary counselor to furnish services directly. This evidence must include the following:

(i) Copies of advertisements in local newspapers that demonstrate recruitment efforts.

(ii) Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counselor job descriptions.

(iii) Evidence that salary and benefits are competitive for the area.

(iv) Evidence of any other recruiting activities (for example, recruiting efforts at health fairs and contact discussions with physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling service providers in the area).

(b) Any waiver request is deemed to be granted unless it is denied within 60 days after it is received.

(c) An initial waiver will remain effective for 1 year at a time from the date of the request.

(d) If a hospice wishes to receive a 1-year extension, it must submit a request to CMS before the expiration of the waiver period and certify that conditions under which it originally requested the waiver have not changed since the initial waiver was granted.

§418.76 Condition of participation: Hospice aide and homemaker services.

All hospice aide services must be provided by individuals who meet the personnel requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section. Homemaker services must be provided by individuals who meet the personnel requirements specified in paragraph (j) of this section.

(a) *Standard: Hospice aide qualifications.* (1) A qualified hospice aide is a person who has successfully completed one of the following:

(i) A training program and competency evaluation as specified in para-

graphs (b) and (c) of this section respectively.

(ii) A competency evaluation program that meets the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section.

(iii) A nurse aide training and competency evaluation program approved by the State as meeting the requirements of §483.151 through §483.154 of this chapter, and is currently listed in good standing on the State nurse aide registry.

(iv) A State licensure program that meets the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) A hospice aide is not considered to have completed a program, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, if, since the individual's most recent completion of the program(s), there has been a continuous period of 24 consecutive months during which none of the services furnished by the individual as described in §409.40 of this chapter were for compensation. If there has been a 24-month lapse in furnishing services, the individual must complete another program, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, before providing services.

(b) *Standard: Content and duration of hospice aide classroom and supervised practical training.* (1) Hospice aide training must include classroom and supervised practical training in a practicum laboratory or other setting in which the trainee demonstrates knowledge while performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse, who is under the supervision of a registered nurse. Classroom and supervised practical training combined must total at least 75 hours.

(2) A minimum of 16 hours of classroom training must precede a minimum of 16 hours of supervised practical training as part of the 75 hours.

(3) A hospice aide training program must address each of the following subject areas:

(i) Communication skills, including the ability to read, write, and verbally report clinical information to patients, care givers, and other hospice staff.

(ii) Observation, reporting, and documentation of patient status and the care or service furnished.

(iii) Reading and recording temperature, pulse, and respiration.

(iv) Basic infection control procedures.

(v) Basic elements of body functioning and changes in body function that must be reported to an aide's supervisor.

(vi) Maintenance of a clean, safe, and healthy environment.

(vii) Recognizing emergencies and the knowledge of emergency procedures and their application.

(viii) The physical, emotional, and developmental needs of and ways to work with the populations served by the hospice, including the need for respect for the patient, his or her privacy, and his or her property.

(ix) Appropriate and safe techniques in performing personal hygiene and grooming tasks, including items on the following basic checklist:

(A) Bed bath.

(B) Sponge, tub, and shower bath.

(C) Hair shampoo (sink, tub, and bed).

(D) Nail and skin care.

(E) Oral hygiene.

(F) Toileting and elimination.

(x) Safe transfer techniques and ambulation.

(xi) Normal range of motion and positioning.

(xii) Adequate nutrition and fluid intake.

(xiii) Any other task that the hospice may choose to have an aide perform. The hospice is responsible for training hospice aides, as needed, for skills not covered in the basic checklist, as described in paragraph (b)(3)(ix) of this section.

(4) The hospice must maintain documentation that demonstrates that the requirements of this standard are met.

(c) *Standard: Competency evaluation.* An individual may furnish hospice aide services on behalf of a hospice only after that individual has successfully completed a competency evaluation program as described in this section.

(1) The competency evaluation must address each of the subjects listed in paragraph (b)(3) of this section. Subject areas specified under paragraphs (b)(3)(i), (b)(3)(iii), (b)(3)(ix), (b)(3)(x) and (b)(3)(xi) of this section must be evaluated by observing an aide's per-

formance of the task with a patient. The remaining subject areas may be evaluated through written examination, oral examination, or after observation of a hospice aide with a patient.

(2) A hospice aide competency evaluation program may be offered by any organization, except as described in paragraph (f) of this section.

(3) The competency evaluation must be performed by a registered nurse in consultation with other skilled professionals, as appropriate.

(4) A hospice aide is not considered competent in any task for which he or she is evaluated as unsatisfactory. An aide must not perform that task without direct supervision by a registered nurse until after he or she has received training in the task for which he or she was evaluated as "unsatisfactory," and successfully completes a subsequent evaluation. A hospice aide is not considered to have successfully completed a competency evaluation if the aide has an "unsatisfactory" rating in more than one of the required areas.

(5) The hospice must maintain documentation that demonstrates the requirements of this standard are being met.

(d) *Standard: In-service training.* A hospice aide must receive at least 12 hours of in-service training during each 12-month period. In-service training may occur while an aide is furnishing care to a patient.

(1) In-service training may be offered by any organization, and must be supervised by a registered nurse.

(2) The hospice must maintain documentation that demonstrates the requirements of this standard are met.

(e) *Standard: Qualifications for instructors conducting classroom and supervised practical training.* Classroom and supervised practical training must be performed by a registered nurse who possesses a minimum of 2 years nursing experience, at least 1 year of which must be in home care, or by other individuals under the general supervision of a registered nurse.

(f) *Standard: Eligible competency evaluation organizations.* A hospice aide competency evaluation program as

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specified in paragraph (c) of this section may be offered by any organization except by a home health agency that, within the previous 2 years:

(1) Had been out of compliance with the requirements of §484.36(a) and §484.36 (b) of this chapter.

(2) Permitted an individual that does not meet the definition of a “qualified home health aide” as specified in §484.36(a) of this chapter to furnish home health aide services (with the exception of licensed health professionals and volunteers).

(3) Had been subjected to an extended (or partial extended) survey as a result of having been found to have furnished substandard care (or for other reasons at the discretion of CMS or the State).

(4) Had been assessed a civil monetary penalty of \$5,000 or more as an intermediate sanction.

(5) Had been found by CMS to have compliance deficiencies that endangered the health and safety of the home health agency’s patients and had temporary management appointed to oversee the management of the home health agency.

(6) Had all or part of its Medicare payments suspended.

(7) Had been found by CMS or the State under any Federal or State law to have:

(i) Had its participation in the Medicare program terminated.

(ii) Been assessed a penalty of \$5,000 or more for deficiencies in Federal or State standards for home health agencies.

(iii) Been subjected to a suspension of Medicare payments to which it otherwise would have been entitled.

(iv) Operated under temporary management that was appointed by a governmental authority to oversee the operation of the home health agency and to ensure the health and safety of the home health agency’s patients.

(v) Been closed by CMS or the State, or had its patients transferred by the State.

(g) *Standard: Hospice aide assignments and duties.* (1) Hospice aides are assigned to a specific patient by a registered nurse that is a member of the interdisciplinary group. Written patient care instructions for a hospice aide must be prepared by a registered

nurse who is responsible for the supervision of a hospice aide as specified under paragraph (h) of this section.

(2) A hospice aide provides services that are:

(i) Ordered by the interdisciplinary group.

(ii) Included in the plan of care.

(iii) Permitted to be performed under State law by such hospice aide.

(iv) Consistent with the hospice aide training.

(3) The duties of a hospice aide include the following:

(i) The provision of hands-on personal care.

(ii) The performance of simple procedures as an extension of therapy or nursing services.

(iii) Assistance in ambulation or exercises.

(iv) Assistance in administering medications that are ordinarily self-administered.

(4) Hospice aides must report changes in the patient’s medical, nursing, rehabilitative, and social needs to a registered nurse, as the changes relate to the plan of care and quality assessment and improvement activities. Hospice aides must also complete appropriate records in compliance with the hospice’s policies and procedures.

(h) *Standard: Supervision of hospice aides.* (1) A registered nurse must make an on-site visit to the patient’s home:

(i) No less frequently than every 14 days to assess the quality of care and services provided by the hospice aide and to ensure that services ordered by the hospice interdisciplinary group meet the patient’s needs. The hospice aide does not have to be present during this visit.

(ii) If an area of concern is noted by the supervising nurse, then the hospice must make an on-site visit to the location where the patient is receiving care in order to observe and assess the aide while he or she is performing care.

(iii) If an area of concern is verified by the hospice during the on-site visit, then the hospice must conduct, and the hospice aide must complete a competency evaluation in accordance with §418.76(c).

(2) A registered nurse must make an annual on-site visit to the location where a patient is receiving care in

order to observe and assess each aide while he or she is performing care.

(3) The supervising nurse must assess an aide's ability to demonstrate initial and continued satisfactory performance in meeting outcome criteria that include, but is not limited to—

(i) Following the patient's plan of care for completion of tasks assigned to the hospice aide by the registered nurse.

(ii) Creating successful interpersonal relationships with the patient and family.

(iii) Demonstrating competency with assigned tasks.

(iv) Complying with infection control policies and procedures.

(v) Reporting changes in the patient's condition.

(i) *Standard: Individuals furnishing Medicaid personal care aide-only services under a Medicaid personal care benefit.* An individual may furnish personal care services, as defined in § 440.167 of this chapter, on behalf of a hospice agency.

(1) Before the individual may furnish personal care services, the individual must be found competent by the State (if regulated by the State) to furnish those services. The individual only needs to demonstrate competency in the services the individual is required to furnish.

(2) Services under the Medicaid personal care benefit may be used to the extent that the hospice would routinely use the services of a hospice patient's family in implementing a patient's plan of care.

(3) The hospice must coordinate its hospice aide and homemaker services with the Medicaid personal care benefit to ensure the patient receives the hospice aide and homemaker services he or she needs.

(j) *Standard: Homemaker qualifications.* A qualified homemaker is—

(1) An individual who meets the standards in § 418.202(g) and has successfully completed hospice orientation addressing the needs and concerns of patients and families coping with a terminal illness; or

(2) A hospice aide as described in § 418.76.

(k) *Standard: Homemaker supervision and duties.* (1) Homemaker services

must be coordinated and supervised by a member of the interdisciplinary group.

(2) Instructions for homemaker duties must be prepared by a member of the interdisciplinary group.

(3) Homemakers must report all concerns about the patient or family to the member of the interdisciplinary group who is coordinating homemaker services.

[73 FR 32204, June 5, 2008, as amended at 74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009]

§ 418.78 Conditions of participation—Volunteers.

The hospice must use volunteers to the extent specified in paragraph (e) of this section. These volunteers must be used in defined roles and under the supervision of a designated hospice employee.

(a) *Standard: Training.* The hospice must maintain, document, and provide volunteer orientation and training that is consistent with hospice industry standards.

(b) *Standard: Role.* Volunteers must be used in day-to-day administrative and/or direct patient care roles.

(c) *Standard: Recruiting and retaining.* The hospice must document and demonstrate viable and ongoing efforts to recruit and retain volunteers.

(d) *Standard: Cost saving.* The hospice must document the cost savings achieved through the use of volunteers. Documentation must include the following:

(1) The identification of each position that is occupied by a volunteer.

(2) The work time spent by volunteers occupying those positions.

(3) Estimates of the dollar costs that the hospice would have incurred if paid employees occupied the positions identified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section for the amount of time specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(e) *Standard: Level of activity.* Volunteers must provide day-to-day administrative and/or direct patient care services in an amount that, at a minimum, equals 5 percent of the total patient care hours of all paid hospice employees and contract staff. The hospice must maintain records on the use of