



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

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NF-20-134 – Provider Alert - REVISED

Date: October 12, 2020

To: All Nursing Facilities

From: Safety, Oversight and Quality
DHS Aging and People with Disabilities Program

RE: Personal Care Assistant Training Program

Due to staffing challenges associated with the COVID-19 statewide emergency, under the authority of the March 8, 2020 Executive Order No. 20-03 issued by Governor Brown, and the Section 1135 blanket waiver issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 30, 2020, the Oregon Department of Human Services is authorizing nursing facilities to utilize a Personal Care Assistant Training Program, as follows:

- The Personal Care Assistant Training Program may be administered by the nursing facility utilizing one of the following free online training courses:
 - **8-hour online training course and associated skills competency checklist** developed by the [American Health Care Association in association with Academic Platforms, LLC \(branded as CNAOnline.com\)](#), or
 - **9-hour online training course and associated skills competency checklist** developed by [EduCare© in association with LeadingAge](#).

- The Personal Care Assistant Training Program **must also include** successful completion of the following free supplemental online training courses:
 - **Oregon Care Partners:** [Infection Prevention: What You Need to Know About COVID-19 for Assisted Living, Residential Care and Skilled Nursing Communities](#)
 - **AHCA/NCAL:** [Temporary Feeding Assistant](#)

- Nursing facilities are responsible for the care and services provided by Personal Care Assistants and shall not allow any Personal Care Assistant to perform tasks in which they are not adequately trained and competent.
- Nursing facilities are responsible for maintaining documentation of all individuals that complete the Personal Care Assistant Training Program including, at a minimum:
 - Evidence the individual has successfully completed one of the above training programs and passed the online exam with a passing score of 80% or higher;
 - Certificate of completion for both supplemental online trainings as required above; and
 - Documentation of supervised training and completion of the skills checklist by a member of the nursing staff at the facility.
 - Completion of general facility orientation and training requirements.
- Nursing homes may employ current nursing students who are enrolled in an LPN or RN program in Oregon as Personal Care Assistants. If a nursing student has completed Nursing 101 and Nursing 102, there is no requirement to complete the 8-hour training or take the online exam. They would still be required to complete the supplemental online training courses on feeding older adults and COVID infection prevention. These students can be onboarded at the facility with 2 hours of supervised training and completion of a skills checklist. Nursing students hired as Personal Care Assistants do not have a larger scope of duties than other Personal Care Assistants. Personal Care Assistants may only perform tasks that are consistent with typical CNA job responsibilities.
- Nursing homes are not required to have a current Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) approved CNA Training Program in order to participate in the Personal Care Assistant Training Program.
- **Once the state of emergency has been lifted, Personal Care Assistants must complete the required Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) per federal**

regulations and pass the exam in order to continue providing CNA duties.

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing team:

NF.licensing@dhsoha.state.or.us

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at www.oregon.gov/DHS/.