



**Health Facility Licensing and Certification**

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## Dialysis Services for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs)<sup>1</sup> may need regular dialysis treatments from End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facilities (ESRDs). The options for providing these services are described below along with the processes and requirements to initiate services. Currently there are few ESRDs offering outpatient dialysis at LTCFs; ESRDs and LTCFs interested in exploring on-site dialysis options will need to complete several steps before services can begin.

**Option 1:** LTCF residents can be transported to an ESRD regularly for dialysis treatment. With this option LTCF residents receive the same service and use the same processes as any other ESRD patient.

The time necessary to begin receiving services at an existing ESRD is minimal. The length of time may vary based on the current patient census and resources of the individual ESRD.

**Option 2:** An ESRD may offer dialysis at a LTCF through an ESRD Home Training and Support Program. Before providing ESRD services at a LTCF the ESRD must:

1. Be certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) through the Oregon Health Authority's Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement Section (HCRQI) to have a Home Training and Support Program. CMS has guidance for federal requirements for this kind of service in [Guidance and Survey Process for Reviewing Home Dialysis Services in a Nursing Home REVISED, QSO-18-24-ESRD REVISED 3/22/2023](#);
2. Have a written agreement with the LTCF to ensure
  - a. The services provided in the LTCF are administered and supervised by qualified personnel who meet the criteria for training and competencies as required by the CMS ESRD Conditions for Coverage.
  - b. Only the qualified ESRD personnel will administer, monitor and supervise the dialysis treatments.

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<sup>1</sup> Including Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs), and Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) all licensed by [Oregon Department of Human Services Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit](#)

- c. The LTCF must provide a safe and sanitary environment.

ESRDs with an existing Home Training and Support program can begin the process with step 2 to add services at a LTCF. The ESRD may need to hire and train additional staff in order to have sufficient staff to provide ESRD services at the LTCF location while continuing to provide services at the ESRD.

Once services are being provided by the ESRD at the LTCF,

1. The ESRD maintains direct responsibility for dialysis care and services offered to residents of the LTCF. On-site personnel from the ESRD may be a Patient Care Tech; an RN from the ESRD will not always be on duty at the LTCF site but should be available by phone.
2. The LTCF is responsible for monitoring the resident before, during and after dialysis treatments for complications in accordance with the written agreement.

The process to begin providing services at an LTCF can be time consuming. The length of time will depend on the following factors: whether the ESRD already has a Home Training and Support Program; the time needed to negotiate an agreement with the LTCF; and the staffing capacity of the ESRD.

**Option 3:** An LTCF can license and operate a freestanding ESRD within their building. In order to pursue this option the LTCF would need to submit construction plans to the [HCRQI Facilities Planning & Safety program](#) for review and approval. After the FPS process is complete, the new ESRD would need to be licensed by the [HCRQI Survey & Certification program](#) before treating any patients. After licensure, the new ESRD could apply for CMS certification and complete the certification either through HCRQI or a though a CMS-approved [Accrediting Organization](#).

The time necessary to begin providing services at a freestanding ESRD can be months to years. The length of time reflects the process to design, build, license and then certify a new freestanding ESRD.

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