

SA Hospice and Home Health Agency WebEx call 04/30/2020

- 1.) Nurse Practitioner executive orders: Current executive orders do not clearly address 1135 waivers for Nurse Practitioner. Current executive orders do not directly address the 661 or 662. Work is in process to ensure these issues are addressed either in the form of a revised executive order or under revisions to OAC 310, Chapter 2. A final version is coming soon. The Department is unable to give a definitive date at this time.
- 2.) We have received increased complaints related to nursing home and assisted living facilities telling patients they must choose another home health or hospice because they no longer allow their hospice or home health agency in the facility
- Usually, when the patient and family member are persistent, the facility will back down
 - Per consults with long term care, facilities can limit the number of vendors whom they contract with
 - Make your complaint known to the Ombudsman if the facility does not back down, especially if it appears resident rights are being violated.
- 5.) PPE announcement by Annette Mays
The OAHC has taken orders for PPE. If you have ordered from them, they are receiving masks, and are making follow-up calls to those who ordered. They are still waiting to obtain gowns and expect to get them next week. They will make contact as they come in. You are still able to order on their website if you are unable to get PPE from your MERC. If you don't know who your MERC is, you can find it on the map at www.oahc.com under resources. Click on region and it will take you to contact info.
- 6.) Questions and Answers
- Q: Nurse Practitioner (NP) orders: NPs have been requesting their orders to be accepted and wondering why agencies are sending the order back for a doctor's signature.
- A: Through the 1135 waiver, CMS is allowing the NP to complete the initial orders. By means of executive and emergency orders, the state of Oklahoma will not hinder CMS' blanket waivers. Until waivers have been rescinded we are currently and will continue to comply with CMS waivers to ensure patients receive the care they need.
- Q: NPs want to be listed in place of physician on POC. Is this allowed?
- A: CMS has allowed flexibility during this time to ensure patients get the care they need. Some things depend on your agency, your policies and emergency plan. However, if CMS allows it during this time, so does the state of Oklahoma.
- Q: Should a private duty agency use the same guidance as Home Care?



- A: Follow Home Care guidance, there is no additional guidance specific to private duty at this time.
- Q: Relaxing guidelines: can branches still operate out of parent locations?
- A: Until lifted, we are still operating under executive and emergency orders. The state is not fully open so if it fits your agency to operate under reduced agency locations that is okay. You do need to establish a plan to prepare the agency for a return to normal operations. You will need to ensure your emergency preparedness plan helps transition your staff and patients.
- Q: What is the expectation of assisted living and nursing homes for reporting COVID testing and results to HC and Hospice agencies?
- A: You might reach out to LTC for a more thorough answer, but you will need to consider HIPAA requirements in your request for specific patient information. There has been an Executive Order that has required all nursing homes to test all residents and staff. This is not nursing homes choice, it is Governor mandated. With assisted living patients you may be able to ask your patient. Over time we expect that you would be able to get all needed info from the long term care or assisted living facility.
- Q: Has guidance changed on how we should test patients from facilities on admission to home care for symptomatic/asymptomatic?
- A: If symptomatic your staff can test and take to a lab. At this time there are no requirements/guidance for asymptomatic patients. If there is a desire to be tested, you can call 211 and find a local test site or visit <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>.
- Q: Are minutes from these call been placed online yet?
- A: Yes; please visit https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Medical_Facilities_Service/Home_Services_Division/index.html
- Q: Were changes made to resuming elective surgeries and needing to have the negative COVID test results within 48 hours?
- A: Yes. See amended executive order from Governor's office.
- Q: Contact email for Medical Facilities
- A: Dawnl@health.ok.gov or medicalfacilities@health.ok.gov