



Home Health and Hospice Semi-Weekly COVID-19 TEAMS Call
07/23/2020
Minutes

1. Welcome
2. We have no new COVID specific news or guidance to share this week, just a reminder to:
 - a. Review and update your infection control and COVID policies regularly as the disease and response changes;
 - b. Review and update your Emergency Preparedness Program and policies as well;
 - c. Ensure your policies are specific to include what guidance and/or standards of practice your organization follow;
 - d. Ensure your agency staff are informed of your policies/changes;
 - e. It is difficult for staff to say they are unaware if you have signed documentation of in-services regarding policy updates and changes.
3. Home Health Licensure:
 - a. We continue to receive inquires on licensure expiration dates;
 - b. Expiration dates are still covered under the most current Executive Order, allowing extension of licensure until 14 days after the filing date of the Executive Order (current filing date was 07/10/2020 which brings you to/around 08/24/2020);
 - c. We are very pleased to say licensure applications are coming;
 - d. It would be helpful if you delayed calling to inquire about the status of your licensure renewal package. Rest assured we are processing them as quickly as they come in **and in the order of receipt**. Turnaround time may not be as speedy as normal due to COVID related responsibilities and the departure of an Administrative Assistant.
4. Survey activities:
 - a. We continue to survey IJ, infection control and pain/wounds/etc. types of surveys;
 - b. Regular surveys should resume soon
 - c. Licensure surveys should resume within the next week or two to include initial licensure surveys.
 - d. We've had several phone call and email inquiries on initial licensure applications and surveys. Please understand, these activities were suspended due to COVID-19. We began processing these applications this week so you should receive correspondence from us on anything missing from your packet.
5. Fit test. We recently had a concern expressed about agencies inability to preform fit test.
 - a. Some agencies do their own. Please contact Medical facilities for the name of an agency that may be able to assist.
 - b. The home help community
 - c. 03/10/2020 CMS press release in reference to fit testing:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/covid-19-response-news-alert-cms-issues-key-protective-mask-guidance-healthcare-workers>



(this states, “Due to the updated CDC guidance on allowable facemasks and respirators, CMS is also alerting state surveyors that they are not required – on a temporary basis – to validate the date of a facility’s last annual test of the fit of N95 masks worn by workers in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified facilities. CMS is temporarily suspending surveyor validation of the test to minimize the discarded masks associated with such testing.”

- d. 03/10/2020 QSO guidance for use of certain industrial respirators by health care personnel noted, “Due to the updated CDC guidance and current supply demands of these devices (and the discards associated with testing), CMS is directing surveyors **not to validate the date of the last fit test** for health care workers in Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities, until further notice.

6. Questions/Answers

Question: When will Oklahoma allow Nurse Practitioners to order home care services and sign the plan of care?

Answer:

- a. Oklahoma currently allows this under Executive Orders and Emergency rules outlined in Chapter 2 during the PHE. Once the PHE has ended, we will return to the more stringent State Rule as shown below:
- b. Per OAC 310:662-5-1(c), “No in-home assessment of the need for skilled care shall be conducted by any agency, agency employee, or agency contractor unless and until the agency receives a physician’s order to provide skilled care, or to conduct an in-home assessment of the need for skilled care” HOWEVER;
- c. Please call us if you have additional questions.

Question: Where can we get a fit test?

Answer: McBride Occupational Health Clinic does fit-testing locally.