

To: Health Care Providers
From: Office of Health Care Facilities
Date: April 3, 2020
Subject: Temporary Nurse Aide Certification

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) recently issued several waivers related to delivery of care to nursing home residents during the COVID19 pandemic. The information below is copied directly from the CMS website:

“Training and Certification of Nurse Aides. CMS is waiving the requirements at 42 CFR 483.35(d) (with the exception of 42 CFR 483.35(d)(1)(i)), which require that a SNF and NF may not employ anyone for longer than four months unless they met the training and certification requirements under § 483.35(d). CMS is waiving these requirements to assist in potential staffing shortages seen with the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the health and safety of nursing home residents, CMS is not waiving 42 CFR § 483.35(d)(1)(i), which requires facilities to not use any individual working as a nurse aide for more than four months, on a full-time basis, unless that individual is competent to provide nursing and nursing related services. We further note that we are not waiving § 483.35(c), which requires facilities to ensure that nurse aides are able to demonstrate competency in skills and techniques necessary to care for residents’ needs, as identified through resident assessments, and described in the plan of care.”

On Wednesday, April 1, 2020, the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities also waived similar State regulatory requirements that will remain in effect until the June 2020 board meeting.

While the 4 month period that is allotted to nurse aides for completion of training and competency examination has been extended, CMS did not waive the responsibility to ensure competency. In an effort to assist you, a Temporary Nurse Aide Certification Program has been developed. The requirements of the program are as follows:

An 8-hour training course is offered by AHCA online at <https://educate.ahcancal.org/products/temporary-nurse-aide>

- There is no charge for the training.
- Candidates must pass an exam at the end of training.
- A certificate of completion can be printed after the exam is passed.
- The certificates should be scanned to the Nurse Aide Registry at Wanda.King@tn.gov
- The Nurse Aide Registry will maintain a spreadsheet listing all persons who have successfully completed the program and submitted a certificate to the Registry.

Please note, we will continue to offer training and testing for those who choose to pursue full status certification. Contact www.hdmaster.com for testing schedules.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Wanda King at Wanda.King@tn.gov

NOTE: AT THE END OF THE WAIVER, TEMPORARY NURSE AIDES WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE TRAINING AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE EXAMINATION FOR FULL STATUS CERTIFICATION.