



# HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE NEWSLETTER

**HCBC Newsletter 2022-2**

**June 24, 2022**

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## **HCBC Update:**

- **CMS QSO-22-17-ALL**
- **New Dementia Training Requirements for Home Health Aides**
- **Home Health and Hospice Hotline Number**
- **Survey Entrance for Home Health Agencies and Hospice**

## **CMS QSO-22-17-ALL**

CMS memo [QSO-22-17-ALL](#), posted on 6/14/2022 includes the following:

Survey oversight of the staff vaccination requirement for Medicare and Medicaid-certified providers and suppliers will continue to be performed during initial and recertification surveys but will now only be performed in response to complaints alleging noncompliance with this requirement, not all complaint surveys. Under prior guidance, all surveys included oversight of the staff vaccination requirement. CMS will revise QSO 22-11 to ensure deficiency determinations reflect good faith efforts implemented by providers and suppliers and incorporate harm or potential harm to patients and residents resulting from any noncompliance.

## **New Dementia Training Requirements for Home Health Aides**

Senate Enrolled Act 353 (2022) established new training requirements for home health aides providing care to a client who has been diagnosed with or experiences symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other cognitive disorders. The new law takes effect July 1, 2022. This applies to home health agencies, not personal care services agencies (PSAs).

### New-hire Training

Not later than 60 days after the date on which a home health aide is initially hired to care for an individual with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or a related cognitive disorder, the home health aide shall complete at least six hours of approved dementia training.

A home health aide who has received the required six hours of training and has been employed as a home health aide for at least 24 consecutive months is not required to repeat the six-hour training.

### Annual In-Service Training

Before December 31 of each year, a home health aide who has been employed as a home health aide for at least one year shall complete at least three hours of approved dementia training.

The Indiana Department of Health is currently accepting applications for dementia training programs and will post approved programs on the [IDOH Home Health Aide \(HHA\) Registration Program](#) website. **While the agency is reviewing dementia training program applicants and to allow home health agencies adequate time to train staff impacted by this requirement, agencies will have until Jan. 1, 2023, to achieve compliance with the new-hire training hours and in-service training hours required under IC 16-27-1.5-5 (HHAs will need to have the appropriate training completed by Dec. 31, 2022).**

- HHAs employed for less than one year on July 1, 2022, must complete the full six hours of training.
- HHAs hired between July 1, 2022, and Nov. 1, 2022, will have until Dec. 31, 2022, to complete the six hours.
- HHAs hired after Nov. 1, 2022, will have 60 days from their hire date to complete the training.

## **Home Health and Hospice Hotline Number**

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, state survey agencies are required to establish and maintain a dedicated toll-free hotline for home health agencies (HHAs) and hospice agencies. The purpose of the hotline is to collect, maintain and update information on home health and

hospice programs and to receive complaints (and answer questions) with respect to HHAs and hospice programs in the state.

The Indiana Home Health and Hospice Hotline number is 800-246-8909.

## **Survey Entrance for Home Health Agencies and Hospice**

The following items are requested upon survey entrance. Please ensure they are provided as requested to assist in a smooth survey process:

- Prompt EMR access
- Admission packet

### **WITHIN THE FIRST HOUR:**

1. Facility Census Form, to include of unduplicated skilled admissions for the last 12 months
2. List of all patients, including name, SOC/ROC, admitting diagnosis, services provided, case manager, payor and where the patient resides
3. List of patients who have wound care, infusion, mechanical ventilator, trach care, enteral feeding, ESRD/dialysis, pediatric or on anticoagulation therapy (labs)
4. Provide schedules of all disciplines and their patients during the survey period so the surveyors may set up home visits.