

Sec. 19-13-D83. Homemaker-home health aide services

(a) An agency shall have written policies governing the delivery of homemaker-home health aide services.

(b) On and after January 1, 1993, no person shall furnish homemaker-home health aide services on behalf of a homemaker-home health aide agency unless such person has successfully completed a training and competency evaluation program approved by the department.

(1) The commissioner shall adopt, and revise as necessary, a homemaker-home health aide training program of not less than seventy-five (75) hours and competency evaluation program for homemaker-home health aides. The standard curriculum of the training program shall include the following elements which shall be presented in both lecture and clinical settings:

- (A) Communications skills;
- (B) Observation, reporting and documentation of patient status and the care or services furnished;
- (C) Reading and recording temperature, pulse and respiration;
- (D) Basic infection control procedures;
- (E) Basic elements of body function and changes in body function that must be reported to an aide's supervisor;
- (F) Maintenance of a clean, safe and healthy environment;
- (G) Recognizing emergencies and knowledge of emergency procedures;
- (H) The physical, emotional, and developmental needs of and ways to work with the populations served by the homemaker-home health aide agency, including the need for respect for the patient, his or her privacy and his or her property;
- (I) Appropriate and safe techniques in personal hygiene and grooming that include: bath (bed, sponge, tub or shower), shampoo (sink, tub or bed), nail and skin care, oral hygiene, toileting and elimination;
- (J) Safe transfer techniques and ambulation;
- (K) Normal range of motion and positioning;
- (L) Adequate nutrition and fluid intake;
- (M) Any other task that the homemaker-home health aide agency may choose to have the homemaker-home health aide perform.

(2) A trainee's successful completion of training shall be demonstrated by the trainee's performance, satisfactory to the qualified registered nurse designated in subparagraph (9) (A) of this subdivision of the elements required by the curriculum. Each agency that elects to conduct a homemaker-home health aide training program shall submit such information on its homemaker-home health aide training program as the commissioner may require on forms provided by the department. The department may re-evaluate the agency's homemaker-home health aide training program and competency evaluation program for sufficiency at any time.

(3) The commissioner shall adopt, and revise as necessary, a homemaker-home health aide competency evaluation program to include, procedures for determination of competency which may include a standardized test. At a minimum the subject areas listed in subparagraph (1) (C), (I), (J), and (K) of this subdivision shall be evaluated through

observation of the homemaker-home health aide's performance of the tasks. The other subject areas in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be evaluated through written examination, oral examination or observation of a homemaker-home health aide with a patient.

(4) A homemaker-home health aide is not considered competent in any task for which he or she is evaluated as "unsatisfactory." The homemaker-home health aide must not perform that task without direct supervision by a licensed nurse until after he or she receives training in the task for which he or she was evaluated "unsatisfactory" and passes a subsequent evaluation with a "satisfactory" rating.

(5) A homemaker-home health aide is not considered to have successfully passed a competency evaluation if the aide has an "unsatisfactory" rating in more than one of the required subject areas listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(6) The competency evaluation must be performed by a registered nurse who possesses a minimum of two (2) years of nursing experience at least one (1) year of which must be in the provision of home health care.

(7) The state department of education, the board of trustees of community-technical colleges and an adult continuing education program established and maintained under the auspices of the local or regional board of education or regional educational service center and provided by such board or center may offer such training programs and competency evaluation programs in accordance with this subsection as approved by the commissioner

(8) Homemaker-home health aide agencies may offer such training programs and competency evaluation programs in accordance with this subsection provided that they have not been determined to be out of compliance with one (1) or more of the training and competency evaluation requirements of OBRA as amended within any of the twenty-four (24) months before the training is to begin.

(9) Qualifications of homemaker-home health aide training instructors:

(A) The training of homemaker-home health aides must be performed by or under the general supervision of a registered nurse who possesses a minimum of two (2) years of nursing experience, one (1) year of which must be in the provision of home health care.

(B) Qualified personnel from the health field may serve as trainers in the homemaker-home health aide training program under the general supervision of the qualified registered nurse identified in subdivision (9) (A) of this subsection. All trainers shall be licensed, registered and/or certified in their field.

(C) Licensed practical nurses, under the supervision of the qualified registered nurse designated in subdivision (9) (A) of this subsection may serve as trainers in the homemaker-home health aide training program provided the licensed practical nurse has two (2) years of nursing experience, one (1) year of experience which must be in the provision of home health care.

(D) The training of homemaker-home health aides may be performed under the general supervision of the registered nurse supervisor. The registered nurse supervisor is prohibited from performing the actual training of homemaker-home health aides.

(10) Upon satisfactory completion of the training and competency evaluation program the agency or educational facility identified in subdivision (7) of this subsection shall issue documentation of satisfactory completion, signed by the qualified registered nurse

designated in subdivision (9) (A) of this subsection, as evidence of said training and competency evaluation. Said documentation shall include a notation as to the agency or educational facility that provided the training and competency evaluation program.

(11) On and after January 1, 1993 any homemaker-home health aide agency that uses homemaker-home health aides from a placement agency or from a nursing pool shall maintain sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the requirements of this subsection are met.

(12) If, since an individual's most recent completion of a training and competency evaluation program or competency evaluation program, there has been a continuous period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months during none of which the individual performed nursing or nursing related services for monetary compensation, such individual shall complete a new competency evaluation program.

(13) Any person employed as a homemaker-home health aide prior to January 1, 1993, shall be deemed to have completed a training and competency evaluation program pursuant to subsection 19-13-D83 (b) of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(14) Any person who has successfully completed prior to January 1, 1993 the state-sponsored nurse assistant training program provided through the state department of education or through the Connecticut Board of Trustees of community-technical colleges shall be deemed to have completed a homemaker-home health aide training and competency evaluation program approved by the commissioner in accordance with this subsection.

(15) Any person who has completed a nurses aide training and competency evaluation program as defined in section 19-13-D8t (a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be deemed to have completed a training program as required in this section. Such individual shall complete a homemaker-home health aide competency evaluation before the provision of homemaker-home health aide services.

(16) Any person who has successfully completed a course or courses comprising not less than seventy-five (75) hours of theoretical and clinical instruction in the fundamental skills of nursing in a practical nursing or registered nursing education program approved by the department with the advice and assistance of the state board of examiners for nursing may be deemed to have completed a homemaker-home health aide training program approved by the commissioner in accordance with this subsection. If the curriculum meets the minimum requirements as set forth in this subsection, such individual shall complete a homemaker-home health aide competency evaluation before the provision of homemaker-home health aide services.

(17) On or after January 1, 1993 a homemaker-home health aide in another state or territory of the United States may be deemed to have completed a training program as required in this subsection provided the homemaker-home health aide agency has sufficient documentation which demonstrates such individual has successfully completed a training program in accordance with subdivision (b) (1). Such individual shall complete a homemaker-home health aide competency evaluation before the provision of homemaker-home health aide services.

(18) The homemaker-home health aide agency shall maintain sufficient documentation to demonstrate that all the requirements of this subsection are met for any individual furnishing homemaker-home health aide services on behalf of the homemaker-home health

aide health agency.

(19) Any person who has been deemed to have completed a homemaker-home health aide training program in accordance with this subsection shall be provided with ten (10) hours of orientation by the agency of employment prior to the individual providing any homemaker-home health aide services.

(c) When designated by the supervising registered nurse, duties of the homemaker-home health aide may include:

(1) Assisting the patient with personal care activities; including bathing, oral hygiene, feeding, or dressing;

(2) Assisting the patient with exercises, ambulation, transfer activities and assisting with medications that are ordinarily self-administered;

(3) Performing normal household services essential to health care at home, including shopping, meal preparation, laundry, housecleaning.

(Effective December 28, 1992; Amended August 31, 1998)