

WAC 246-310-395 Nursing home bed banking for alternative use notice requirements. In the case of a nursing home licensee, requesting to convert some of the nursing home beds to an alternative use, as defined in RCW 70.38.111(8), or reduce the number of beds per room to two or one, or otherwise enhance the quality of life for residents and preserve the right to later convert the original portion of the facility back to skilled nursing care, the nursing home shall give notice of intent to preserve its conversion options to the department of health.

(1) Notice of the nursing homes intent to preserve conversion options shall be given to the department of health no later than thirty days after the effective date of the license modification made by the nursing home licensing authority. Such notices shall be signed by the licensee and include the following:

(a) A description of the alternative service to be provided or a description of how the proposed bed banking will have a direct and immediate benefit to the quality of life of the residents and a listing of the number of beds, by room number;

(b) A projected timeline for implementation; and

(c) In the event the nursing home licensee, as defined by WAC 246-310-010, is not the nursing home owner, the licensee shall document whether the building owner has a secured interest in the beds.

- If the building owner does have a secured interest in the beds, the licensee shall provide a written statement, signed by the building owner, indicating approval of the bed reduction.
- If the building owner does not have a secured interest in the beds, the licensee shall provide documentation showing that the building owner has been notified of the bed reduction.

(2) The department shall notify the nursing home, as to whether the proposal meets the requirements of RCW 70.38.111 (8)(a) and if conversion rights are recognized. The nursing home does not forfeit its right to bank beds under this section if the department does not respond within this thirty-day time frame, nor does the nursing home obtain rights that it otherwise would not have under applicable statutes or rules if the department does not respond within the thirty-day time frame.

(3) The licensee shall notify the department of health at the time the alternative service or services commences.

(4) In the event the facility decides to modify the room numbers or alternative uses for the beds that have been banked, notification to the department is necessary to assure continued compliance with RCW 70.38.111 (8)(a) and WAC 246-310-395.

(5) Notice of intent to convert beds back to nursing home bed use shall be given to the department of health and the department of social and health services a minimum of ninety days prior to the effective date of the licensure modification made by the nursing home licensing authority reflecting the restored beds unless construction is required to convert the beds back. In the event the beds are not converted back to nursing home beds within sixty days of the date stated in the notice of intent, a notice of intent will need to be resubmitted a minimum of ninety days prior to the effective date of the licensure modification.

(6) In the event construction is required to convert beds back to nursing home bed use, notice shall be given to the department of health and department of social and health services a minimum of one year prior to the effective date of licensure modification made by the

nursing home licensing authority reflecting the restored beds. The same life and safety code requirements as existed at the time the nursing home voluntarily reduced its licensed beds shall be complied with unless waivers from such requirements were issued, in which case the converted beds shall reflect the conditions or standards that then existed pursuant to the approved waivers. In the event the beds are not converted back to nursing home beds within sixty days of the date stated in the notice of intent, a notice of intent will need to be re-submitted a minimum of one year prior to the effective date of the license modification. The term "construction," as used in this section, is limited to those projects that are expected to equal or exceed the expenditure minimum amount, as determined under chapter 70.38 RCW.

(7) Prior to any license modification to convert beds back to nursing home beds under this section, the licensee must demonstrate that the nursing home meets the certificate of need exemption requirements under WAC 246-310-043.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.38 RCW. WSR 98-17-099, § 246-310-395, filed 8/19/98, effective 9/19/98; WSR 98-10-053, § 246-310-395, filed 4/29/98, effective 5/30/98; WSR 96-24-052, § 246-310-395, filed 11/27/96, effective 12/28/96.]