

WAC 246-337-080 Resident care services. Nothing in this section applies to an RTF in its licensed capacity to provide pediatric transitional care services according to this chapter.

(1) The licensee must establish and implement policies and procedures that:

(a) Describe how the licensee meets the residents' health care needs by satisfying the requirements of this section; and

(b) Are reviewed and approved by a health care prescriber at least biennially.

(2) The licensee must:

(a) Limit admission, transfer, discharge, and referral processes to residents for whom the RTF is qualified by staff, services, equipment, building design and occupancy to give safe care;

(b) Conduct or accept a current health care screening of each resident upon admission including a tuberculosis risk assessment and symptom screening;

(c) Refer residents for health care provided outside of the RTF as needed such as, but not limited to, laboratory, dental, ambulatory care or specialty services as needed;

(d) Assist residents in following all prescribed treatments, modified diets, activities or activity limitations;

(e) Assist residents to keep health care appointments;

(f) Provide access to a health assessment by a health care prescriber any time a resident exhibits signs or symptoms of an injury, illness or abnormality for which a medical diagnosis and treatment are indicated;

(g) Provide access to tuberculosis testing if the resident is high-risk or symptomatic of tuberculosis;

(h) Address serious illness, medical emergencies, or threat to life, to include:

(i) Criteria for determining the degree of medical stability of residents;

(ii) Observing residents for signs and symptoms of illness or trauma;

(iii) Reporting abnormal signs and symptoms according to an established protocol;

(iv) Criteria requiring a resident's immediate transfer to a hospital;

(v) How staff transmits the resident's medical and related data in the event of a transfer;

(vi) How to notify the parent or guardian, personal representative or next of kin in the event of an emergency, threat to life, serious change in the resident's condition, transfer of a resident to another facility, or death; and

(vii) When to consult with internal or external resource agencies or entities such as poison control, fire department or police.

(i) Provide access to emergency and prenatal care for pregnant residents, and postnatal care services for residents and infants; and

(j) Assure provisions of each resident's personal care items and durable medical equipment including storing and labeling each resident's personal care items separately, preventing contamination, and preventing access by other residents.

(3) (a) RTFs performing the following duties must meet the staffing requirements in (b) of this subsection:

(i) Have a health care prescriber initiate or adjust medication that is administered by staff according to the resident's individual service plan;

- (ii) Otherwise administer medications to the resident; or
- (iii) Use restraint or seclusion.

(b) RTFs performing any duties described in (a) of this subsection must meet the following staffing requirements:

(i) A registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or prescriber must be available on-site during medication administration or while restraint or seclusion is being used, and otherwise available by phone twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week; and

(ii) A prescriber or registered nurse who is responsible for the supervision of resident care and nursing services must be available on-site at least four hours per calendar week.

(4) RTFs which do not perform any duties described in subsection (3)(a) of this section but have a health care prescriber initiate or adjust medication for residents to self-administer according to the resident's individual service plan must have a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse available at least by phone twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

(5) RTFs which meet the conditions in subsection (3) or (4) of this section must:

(a) Perform a health assessment for each resident. A prescriber or licensed nurse operating within their scope of practice shall conduct and complete the assessment following the resident's admission to the RTF unless a health assessment was performed within the past three months and is available to the RTF upon admission; and

(b) Develop and implement the policies and procedures explaining how nursing staff will be used including:

- (i) Scheduling of hours on-site and availability by phone;
- (ii) Supervision, assessment, and training of other staff;
- (iii) Delegation to other staff;
- (iv) Medication management;
- (v) Treatment planning;
- (vi) Health screenings;
- (vii) Health assessments; and
- (viii) If applicable, restraint or seclusion.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 71.12.670, 71.12.684 and 2017 c 263. WSR 19-02-036, § 246-337-080, filed 12/24/18, effective 1/1/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 71.12.670. WSR 18-06-092, § 246-337-080, filed 3/6/18, effective 4/16/18. Statutory Authority: Chapter 71.12 RCW. WSR 05-15-157, § 246-337-080, filed 7/20/05, effective 8/20/05.]