

WAC 246-335-714 General licensing requirements. (1) Initial application. To apply for a hospice care center license, an applicant must meet the initial application requirements in WAC 246-335-320 (2)(a) through (g), (i), and (j), WAC 246-335-712(2), and submit documentation that no more than forty-nine percent of patient care days, in the aggregate on a biennial basis, will be provided in a hospice care center, as required under RCW 70.127.280 (1)(d).

(2) A hospice care center licensee must meet the renewal requirements in WAC 246-335-325.

(3) Change of ownership. A hospice care center licensee must meet the change of ownership requirements in WAC 246-335-330.

(4) Applicant or licensee responsibilities. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must meet the applicant or licensee responsibilities requirements in WAC 246-335-335.

(5) Survey and investigation. The department's survey and investigation responsibilities in WAC 246-335-340 apply to hospice care center applicants and licensees.

(6) Plan of operation. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must meet the plan of operation requirements in WAC 246-335-615, and ensure pets or animals living on the premises:

(a) Have regular examinations and immunizations, appropriate for the species, by a veterinarian licensed in Washington state;

(b) Be veterinarian certified as free of diseases transmittable to humans;

(c) Are restricted from food preparation areas; and

(d) Include only those customarily considered domestic pets.

(7) Delivery of services. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must:

(a) Meet the delivery of services requirements in WAC 246-335-620; and

(b) Establish and implement policies and procedures that ensure:

(i) Auditory and physical privacy for the patient and family during the admitting process;

(ii) Patient rooms are private, unless the patient requests a roommate. Only two patients may share a room;

(iii) Each patient is provided a bed with a mattress appropriate to the special needs and size of the patient; and

(iv) Availability of clean bed and bath linens that are in good condition and free of holes and stains.

(8) Personnel, contractor, and volunteer policies. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must:

(a) Meet the personnel, contractor and volunteer policy requirements in WAC 246-335-625; and

(b) Ensure training in the safe storage and handling of oxygen containers and other equipment as necessary.

(9) Personnel, contractor, and volunteer records. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must meet the personnel, contractor, and volunteer records requirements in WAC 246-335-630.

(10) Bill of rights. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must:

(a) Meet the bill of rights requirements in WAC 246-335-635; or

(b) For patients already being served by the hospice agency operating the hospice care center, ensure:

(i) The bill of rights requirements have been provided to the patient, designated family member, or legal representative; and

(ii) Provide any additional information needed specific to the hospice care center.

(11) Plan of care. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must:

(a) Meet the plan of care requirements in WAC 246-335-640; or

(b) For patients already being served by the hospice agency operating the hospice care center, review the plan of care for any necessary revisions, and maintain the plan of care with any revisions in the hospice care center.

(12) Supervision. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must:

(a) Meet the supervision requirements in WAC 246-335-645; and

(b) Develop any necessary supervision requirements specific to:

(i) The hospice care center service category staffing requirements; and

(ii) Supervising personnel, volunteers and contractors who are employed by a separately licensed hospice agency.

(13) Patient records. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must meet the requirements in WAC 246-335-650.

(14) Quality improvement. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must:

(a) Meet the quality improvement requirements in WAC 246-335-655; or

(b) Ensure the hospice agency operating the hospice care center has a quality improvement program that applies to the hospice care center; or

(c) Implement any needed changes or additions to the current hospice agency quality improvement program.

(15) Home medical supplies and equipment. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must meet the home medical supplies and equipment requirements in WAC 246-335-660.

(16) Staffing requirements. A hospice care center applicant or licensee must implement the following staffing requirements:

(a) There must be adequate staffing on duty at all times. Considerations for determining adequate staffing include, but are not limited to:

(i) Number of patients currently admitted and residing in the center;

(ii) Specific patient care requirements;

(iii) Family care needs; and

(iv) Availability of support from other interdisciplinary team members.

(b) Two people, who may either be personnel, contractors or volunteers, must be on duty twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week;

(c) A registered nurse must be available twenty-four hours per day for consultation and direct participation in nursing care;

(d) A registered nurse must be on-site when required to perform duties specified in chapter 18.79 RCW;

(e) When providing general inpatient services, a hospice care center must comply with the staffing requirements in (a) through (d) of this subsection, and ensure:

(i) A registered nurse is present twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, to direct nursing services; and

(ii) Care is provided by either an RN, LPN or home health aide to meet the needs of each patient in accordance with the plan of care.

(f) When providing continuous care services, a hospice care center must, in addition to the staffing requirements in (a) through (d) of this subsection, ensure:

(i) One-on-one staffing, directed by an RN, for a minimum of eight hours to a maximum of twenty-four hours per calendar day; and
(ii) Care is provided by either an RN, LPN or home health aide to meet the needs of each patient in accordance with the plan of care.

(17) A hospice care center may either be owned or leased. If the hospice agency leases space, all delivery of interdisciplinary services, including staffing and management, must be done by the hospice agency per RCW 70.127.280 (1)(g).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.127.120 and 43.70.250. WSR 18-06-093, § 246-335-714, filed 3/6/18, effective 4/6/18.]