Licensing and Certification for Inpatient Services

Page updated: August 2020

This section includes licensing and certification policies pertaining to facilities.

Medical Care Evaluation (MCE) Studies

As a condition of participation, hospitals, Nursing Facilities Level B (NF-B), and mental hospitals providing services to Medi-Cal program recipients are reminded to include Medi-Cal patients in all Medical Care Evaluation (MCE) studies.

This requirement pertains equally to facilities certified for participation in both the Medicare and Medi-Cal programs, as well as those facilities certified for participation only in the Medi-Cal program. The status of MCE studies in NF-Bs and mental hospitals are checked by staff members of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) during onsite visits either at the annual review or during routine onsite visits.

A state assessment conducted by the federal government indicates that a large percentage of facilities in the state are not aware of the MCE requirements. For additional information on this subject, facilities certified for participation only in the Medi-Cal program should refer to a letter dated August 1978, issued by the CDPH Licensing and Certification Division. All facilities may also contact a local Medi-Cal field office for further assistance.

Competency Evaluation Program for Nurse Aides

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987 (42 CFR 483.150, 483.151, 483.154) requires all nurse aides who completed training on or after April 1, 1992 to also complete a state-approved competency evaluation program.

Approved Programs

The following two programs are approved by the CDPH Licensing and Certification Program to establish competency:

- Chancellor's Office of California Community Colleges:

  - This program includes a skills demonstration and a written/oral test using a traditional pen and paper format for group testing. Six regional training centers throughout California coordinate and develop contracts between facilities and local community colleges and Regional Occupational Programs (ROPs).

- American Red Cross:

  - This program operates from the Los Angeles Chapter offices and includes a skills demonstration and a written/oral test with an interactive video disk format for individual aide testing, or a traditional pen and paper format for group testing. The Red Cross coordinates and develops contracts with facilities and other approved nurse aide training programs including ROPs.

Facility Pays Test Fees

Nurse aides presently employed or with an employment offer from a facility are not charged for the training or competency evaluation program. The facility must arrange to pay for the test fees. Nurse aides not employed at the time of the testing, but hired by a facility within 12 months of establishing competency, will have the costs of the test reimbursed by the facility on a prorated basis.

Certified Nurse Assistant: Recertification

Facilities must verify the certification status of all Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) staff under employment. Applications for recertification may be requested from CDPH at the following address or by calling (916) 327-2445:

> California Department of Public Health
> Licensing and Certification
> Certified Nurse Assistant Program
> MS 3301
> P.O. Box 997416
> Sacramento, CA 95899-7416

CDPH is mandated by Title 22 of the *California Code of Regulations* (CCR) and *Health and Safety Code* 1338.8 to deny, suspend or revoke a CNA's certificate for any of the following reasons:

- Unprofessional conduct

- Acts of fraud or misrepresentation

- Abuse (physical, verbal, emotional, sexual)

- Theft or forgery

- Acts of fiscal dishonesty or moral turpitude

- Acts relating to the misappropriation of a patient's funds or personal property

- Acts that result in federal enforcement action or an "A" or "AA" citation written against a health care facility and upheld by the CDPH Citation Review Unit

For a list of CNAs with revoked or suspended certification, refer to the *Medi-Cal Suspended and Ineligible Provider List (S&I List)* available on the Internet at *www.medi-cal.ca.gov*.

‹‹Legend››

‹‹Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.››

Symbol	Description
‹‹	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
››	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.