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New Nurse Aide Training Program Requirements Implemented

Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 129 was recently revised to implement changes that affect nurse aide training. Although the revisions became effective as of December 1, 2008 for new nurse aid training programs, those programs that are currently active with an approval date prior to November 1, 2008, may continue training as currently provided until June 20, 2009. However, every nurse aide training program currently approved to operate that wishes to continue to train nurse aides after June 30, 2009 must submit a new nurse aide training program application. There will be no exceptions to this requirement.

All programs must make updates based on the new program operation and curriculum requirements that are outlined in DHS 129.07. For example, a nurse aide training program must be a minimum of 120 hours in length; this includes at least 32 hours of clinical experience. Even currently approved 120-hour programs may need to modify their policies regarding absences in order to meet the new program length requirements. Further, programs must demonstrate that certain newly required curriculum topics are being covered. The program must revise quizzes and exams to include questions relating to the additional topics covered. Course syllabi and course calendars must also be revised accordingly.

You may also contact a member of the Long Term Care Group at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. for more information or individualized consultation regarding developing or updating a nurse aide training program pursuant to the new requirements.

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