

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE HEALTH FACILITIES COMMISSION**

**CHAPTER 0720-18  
STANDARDS FOR NURSING HOMES**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

0720-18-.01	Definitions	0720-18-.10	Infectious and Hazardous Waste
0720-18-.02	Licensing Procedures	0720-18-.11	Records and Reports
0720-18-.03	Disciplinary Procedures	0720-18-.12	Resident Rights
0720-18-.04	Administration	0720-18-.13	Policies and Procedures for Health Care Decision-Making
0720-18-.05	Admissions, Discharges, and Transfers		
0720-18-.06	Basic Services	0720-18-.14	Disaster Preparedness
0720-18-.07	Special Services: Alzheimer's Units	0720-18-.15	Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation
0720-18-.08	Building Standards		
0720-18-.09	Life Safety	0720-18-.16	Appendix I

**0720-18-.01 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) Abuse. The willful infliction of injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation or punishment with resulting physical harm, pain or mental anguish.
- (2) Administrator. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.
- (3) Adult. An individual who has capacity and is at least 18 years of age.
- (4) Advance Directive. An individual instruction or a written statement relating to the subsequent provision of health care for the individual, including, but not limited to, a living will or a durable power of attorney for health care.
- (5) Agent. An individual designated in an advance directive for health care to make a health care decision for the individual granting the power.
- (6) Board. The Tennessee Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities.
- (7) Capacity. An individual's ability to understand the significant benefits, risks, and alternatives to proposed health care and to make and communicate a health care decision. These regulations do not affect the right of a resident to make health care decisions while having the capacity to do so. A resident shall be presumed to have capacity to make a health care decision, to give or revoke an advance directive, and to designate or disqualify a surrogate. Any person who challenges the capacity of a resident shall have the burden of proving lack of capacity.
- (8) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The administering of any means or device to restore or support cardiopulmonary functions in a resident, whether by mechanical devices, chest compressions, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, cardiac massage, tracheal intubation, manual or mechanical ventilations or respirations, defibrillation, the administration of drugs and/or chemical agents intended to restore cardiac and/or respiratory functions in a resident where cardiac or respiratory arrest has occurred or is believed to be imminent.
- (9) Certified Nurse Aide or Certified Nursing Assistant. An individual who has successfully completed an approved nursing assistant training program and is registered with the department.

(Rule 0720-18-.01, continued)

- (10) Clinical Fellow. A Speech Language Pathologist who is in the process of obtaining his or her paid professional experience, as defined by a Communications Disorders and Sciences Board-approved accreditation agency, before being qualified for licensure.
- (11) Commissioner. The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health or his or her authorized representative.
- (12) Competent. A resident who has capacity.
- (13) Department. The Tennessee Department of Health.
- (14) Designated Physician. A physician designated by an individual or the individual's agent, guardian, or surrogate, to have primary responsibility for the individual's health care or, in the absence of a designation or if the designated physician is not reasonably available, a physician who undertakes such responsibility.
- (15) Dietitian. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners. Persons exempt from licensure shall be registered with the American Dietetics Association pursuant to T.C.A. § 63-25-104.
- (16) Director of Nursing (DON). A Registered Nurse employed full-time in a nursing home who satisfies the responsibilities set forth in this chapter.
- (17) Do-Not-Resuscitate Order (DNR). A written order, other than a POST, not to resuscitate a patient in cardiac or respiratory arrest in accordance with accepted medical practices.
- (18) Emancipated Minor. Any minor who is or has been married or has by court order or otherwise been freed from the care, custody and control of the minor's parents.
- (19) Emergency Responder. A paid or volunteer firefighter, law enforcement officer, or other public safety official or volunteer acting within the scope of his or her proper function under law or rendering emergency care at the scene of an emergency.
- (20) Guardian. A judicially appointed guardian or conservator having authority to make a health care decision for an individual.
- (21) Hazardous Waste. Materials whose handling, use, storage, and disposal are governed by local, state or federal regulations.
- (22) Health Care. Any care, treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose, treat, or otherwise affect an individual's physical or mental condition, and includes medical care as defined in T.C.A. § 32-11-103(5).
- (23) Health Care Decision. Consent, refusal of consent or withdrawal of consent to health care.
- (24) Health Care Decision-Maker. In the case of a resident who lacks capacity, the resident's health care decision-maker is one of the following: the resident's health care agent as specified in an advance directive, the resident's court-appointed guardian or conservator with health care decision-making authority, the resident's surrogate as determined pursuant to Rule 0720-18-.13 or T.C.A. § 33-3-220, the designated physician pursuant to these rules or in the case of a minor child, the person having custody or legal guardianship.
- (25) Health Care Institution. A health care institution as defined in T.C.A. § 68-11-1602.

(Rule 0720-18-.01, continued)

- (26) Health Care Provider. A person who is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession.
- (27) Hospital. Any institution, place, building or agency represented and held out to the general public as ready, willing and able to furnish care, accommodations, facilities and equipment for the use, in connection with the services of a physician or dentist, of one (1) or more nonrelated persons who may be suffering from deformity, injury or disease or from any other condition for which nursing, medical or surgical services would be appropriate for care, diagnosis or treatment.
- (28) Hospitalization. The reception and care of any person for a continuous period longer than twenty-four (24) hours, for the purpose of giving advice, diagnosis, nursing service or treatment bearing on the physical health of such person, and maternity care involving labor and delivery for any period of time.
- (29) Incompetent. A resident who has been adjudicated incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction and has not been restored to legal capacity.
- (30) Individual Instruction. An individual's direction concerning a health care decision for the individual.
- (31) Infectious Waste. Solid or liquid wastes which contain pathogens with sufficient virulence and quantity such that exposure to the waste by a susceptible host could result in an infectious disease.
- (32) Involuntary Transfer. The movement of a resident between nursing homes, without the consent of the resident, the resident's legal guardian, next of kin or representative.
- (33) Licensed Practical Nurse. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.
- (34) Licensee. The person or entity to whom the license is issued. The licensee is held responsible for compliance with all rules and regulations.
- (35) Life Threatening or Serious Injury. Injury requiring the patient to undergo significant additional diagnostic or treatment measures.
- (36) Medical Director. A licensed physician employed by the nursing home to be responsible for medical care in the facility.
- (37) Medical Emergency. A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in placing the resident's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.
- (38) Medical Equipment. Equipment used for the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of patients, including, but not limited to, oxygen care equipment and oxygen delivery systems, enteral and parenteral feeding pumps, and intravenous pumps.
- (39) Medical Record. Medical histories, records, reports, summaries, diagnoses, prognoses, records of treatment and medication ordered and given, entries, x-rays, radiology interpretations and other written, electronic, or graphic data prepared, kept, made or maintained in a facility that pertains to confinement or services rendered to residents.

(Rule 0720-18-.01, continued)

- (40) Medically Inappropriate Treatment. Resuscitation efforts that cannot be expected either to restore cardiac or respiratory function to the resident or other medical or surgical treatments to achieve the expressed goals of the informed resident. In the case of the incompetent resident, the resident's representative expresses the goals of the resident.
- (41) Misappropriation of Patient/Resident Property. The deliberate misplacement, exploitation or wrongful, temporary or permanent use of an individual's belongings or money without the individual's consent.
- (42) Neglect. The failure to provide goods and services necessary to avoid physical harm, mental anguish or mental illness; however, the withholding of authorization for or provision of medical care to any terminally ill person who has executed an irrevocable living will in accordance with the Tennessee Right to Natural Death Law, or other applicable state law, if the provision of such medical care would conflict with the terms of the living will, shall not be deemed "neglect" for purposes of these rules.
- (43) NFPA. The National Fire Protection Association.
- (44) Nurse Aide or Nursing Assistant Training Program. A specialized program approved by the Department to provide classroom instruction and supervised clinical experience for individuals who wish to be employed as Nurse Aides or Nursing Assistants.
- (45) Nursing Personnel. Licensed nurses and certified nurse aides who provide nursing care.
- (46) Occupational Therapist. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Occupational and Physical Therapy Examiners.
- (47) Person. An individual, corporation, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- (48) Personally Informing. A communication by any effective means from the resident directly to a health care provider.
- (49) Pharmacist. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy.
- (50) Physical Therapist. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Occupational and Physical Therapy Examiners.
- (51) Physician Assistant. A person who has graduated from a physician assistant educational program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, has passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, and is currently licensed in Tennessee as a physician assistant under Title 63, Chapter 19.
- (52) Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment or POST. Written orders that:
  - (a) Are on a form approved by the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities;
  - (b) Apply regardless of the treatment setting and that are signed as required herein by the patient's physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist; and
  - (c)
    1. Specify whether, in the event the patient suffers cardiac or respiratory arrest, cardiopulmonary resuscitation should or should not be attempted;
    2. Specify other medical interventions that are to be provided or withheld; or

(Rule 0720-18-.01, continued)

3. Specify both 1. and 2.

- (53) Physician. An individual authorized to practice medicine or osteopathy under Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapters 6 or 9.
- (54) Podiatrist. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Registration in Podiatry.
- (55) Power of Attorney for Health Care. The designation of an agent to make health care decisions for the individual granting the power under T.C.A. Title 34, Chapter 6, Part 2.
- (56) Program Coordinator. A registered nurse who possesses a minimum of two years nursing experience with at least one year in long term care and is responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the Nurse Aide Training Program are met.
- (57) Qualified Emergency Medical Service Personnel. Includes, but shall not be limited to, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, or other emergency services personnel, providers, or entities acting within the usual course of their professions, and other emergency responders.
- (58) Reasonably Available. Readily able to be contacted without undue effort and willing and able to act in a timely manner considering the urgency of the resident's health care needs. Such availability shall include, but not be limited to, availability by telephone.
- (59) Registered Nurse. A person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.
- (60) Resident/Patient. Includes but is not limited to any person who is suffering from an illness or injury and who is in need of nursing care.
- (61) Secured Unit. A facility or distinct part of a facility where residents are intentionally denied egress by any means.
- (62) Shall or Must. Compliance is mandatory.
- (63) Social Worker. In a facility with more than 120 beds a qualified social worker is an individual with:
  - (a) A bachelor's degree in social work or a bachelor's degree in a human services field including but not limited to sociology, special education, rehabilitation counseling, and psychology; and,
  - (b) One year of supervised social work experience in a health care setting working directly with individuals.
- (64) Speech Language Pathologist. As defined in T.C.A. § 63-17-103, a person currently licensed as such by the Tennessee Board of Communications Disorders and Sciences.
- (65) State. A state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
- (66) Student. A person currently enrolled in a course of study that is approved by the appropriate licensing board.

(Rule 0720-18-.01, continued)

- (67) **Supervising Health Care Provider.** The designated physician or, if there is no designated physician or the designated physician is not reasonably available, the health care provider who has undertaken primary responsibility for an individual's health care.
- (68) **Surrogate.** An individual, other than a resident's agent or guardian, authorized to make a health care decision for the resident.
- (69) **Survey.** An on-site examination by the department to determine the quality of care and/or services provided.
- (70) **Transfer.** The movement of a resident between nursing homes at the direction of a physician or other qualified medical personnel when a physician is not readily available. The term does not include movement of a resident who leaves the facility against medical advice. The term does not apply to the commitment and movement of mentally ill and mentally retarded persons, the discharge or release of a resident no longer in need of nursing home care, or a nursing home's refusal, after an appropriate medical screening, to render any medical care on the grounds that the person does not have a medical need for nursing home care.
- (71) **Treating Health Care Provider.** A health care provider who at the time is directly or indirectly involved in providing health care to the resident.
- (72) **Treating Physician.** The physician selected by or assigned to the resident and who has the primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the resident. Where more than one physician shares such responsibility, any such physician may be deemed to be the "treating physician."

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 39-11-106, 68-11-201, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-207, 68-11-209, 68-11-210, 68-11-211, 68-11-213, 68-11-224, 68-11-234, 68-11-1802, and 71-6-121.

**Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed April 10, 2000; effective June 24, 2000. Amendment filed April 11, 2003; effective June 25, 2003. Amendment filed April 28, 2003; effective July 12, 2003. Amendments filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Amendment filed February 7, 2007; effective April 23, 2007. Amendment filed July 18, 2007; effective October 1, 2007. Amendment filed January 3, 2012; effective April 2, 2012. Amendment filed March 27, 2015; effective June 25, 2015. Amendment filed September 15, 2015; effective December 14, 2015. Amendments filed July 10, 2018; effective October 8, 2018. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

## **0720-18-.02 LICENSING PROCEDURES.**

- (1) No person, partnership, association, corporation, or state, county or local government unit, or any division, department, board or agency thereof, shall establish, conduct, operate, or maintain in the State of Tennessee any nursing home without having a license. A license shall be issued only to the applicant named and only for the premises listed in the application for licensure. Satellite facilities shall be prohibited. Licenses are not transferable or assignable and shall expire and become invalid annually on the anniversary date of their original issuance. The license shall be conspicuously posted in the nursing home.
- (2) In order to make application for a license:
  - (a) The applicant shall submit an application on a form provided by the department along with a copy of the Certificate of Need (CON) issued by the Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency (HSDA). Any condition placed on the CON will also be placed on the license.

(Rule 0720-18-.02, continued)

- (b) Each applicant for a license shall pay an annual license fee based on the number of nursing home beds. The fee must be submitted with the application and is not refundable.
  - (c) The issuance of an application form is in no way a guarantee that the completed application will be accepted or that a license will be issued by the department. Residents shall not be admitted to the nursing home until a license has been issued. Applicants shall not hold themselves out to the public as being a nursing home until the license has been issued. A license shall not be issued until the facility is in substantial compliance with these rules, including submission of all information required by T.C.A. § 68-11-206(1) or as later amended, and all information required by the Commissioner.
  - (d) The applicant shall not use subterfuge or other evasive means to obtain a license, such as filing for a license through a second party when an individual has been denied a license or has had a license disciplined or has attempted to avoid inspection and review process.
  - (e) The applicant shall allow the nursing home to be inspected by a Department surveyor. In the event that deficiencies are noted, the applicant shall submit a plan of corrective action to the Board that must be accepted by the Board. Once the deficiencies have been corrected, then the Board shall consider the application for licensure.
- (3) A proposed change of ownership, including a change in a controlling interest, must be reported to the department a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the change. A new application and fee must be received by the department before the license may be issued.
- (a) For the purpose of licensing, the licensee of a nursing home has the ultimate responsibility for the operation of the facility, including the final authority to make or control operational decisions and legal responsibility for the business management. A change of ownership occurs whenever this ultimate legal authority for the responsibility of the nursing home's operation is transferred.
  - (b) A change of ownership occurs whenever there is a change in the legal structure by which the nursing home is owned and operated.
  - (c) Transactions constituting a change of ownership include, but are not limited to, the following:
    1. Transfer of the facility's legal title;
    2. Lease of the facility's operations;
    3. Dissolution of any partnership that owns, or owns a controlling interest in, the facility.
    4. One partnership is replaced by another through the removal, addition or substitution of a partner;
    5. Removal of the general partner or general partners, if the facility is owned by a limited partnership;
    6. Merger of a facility owner (a corporation) into another corporation where, after the merger, the owner's shares of capital stock are canceled;
    7. The consolidation of a corporate facility owner with one or more corporations; or,

(Rule 0720-18-.02, continued)

8. Transfers between levels of government.
  - (d) Transactions which do not constitute a change of ownership include, but are not limited to, the following:
    1. Changes in the membership of a corporate board of directors or board of trustees;
    2. Two (2) or more corporations merge and the originally-licensed corporation survives;
    3. Changes in the membership of a non-profit corporation;
    4. Transfers between departments of the same level of government; or,
    5. Corporate stock transfers or sales, even when a controlling interest.
  - (e) Management agreements are generally not changes of ownership if the owner continues to retain ultimate authority for the operation of the facility. However, if the ultimate authority is surrendered and transferred from the owner to a new manager, then a change of ownership has occurred.
  - (f) Sale/lease-back agreements shall not be treated as changes in ownership if the lease involves the facility's entire real and personal property and if the identity of the lessee, who shall continue the operation, retains the same legal form as the former owner.
- (4) Each nursing home, except those operated by the U.S. Government or the State of Tennessee, making application for license under this chapter shall pay annually to the department a fee based on the number of nursing home beds, as follows:
 

(a) Less than 25 beds	\$ 1,040.00
(b) 25 to 49 beds, inclusive	\$ 1,300.00
(c) 50 to 74 beds, inclusive	\$ 1,560.00
(d) 75 to 99 beds, inclusive	\$ 1,820.00
(e) 100 to 124 beds, inclusive	\$ 2,080.00
(f) 125 to 149 beds, inclusive	\$ 2,340.00
(g) 150 to 174 beds, inclusive	\$ 2,600.00
(h) 175 to 199 beds, inclusive	\$ 2,860.00

For nursing homes of two hundred (200) beds or more the fee shall be two thousand eight hundred and sixty dollars (\$2,860.00) plus two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each twenty-five (25) beds or fraction thereof in excess of one hundred ninety-nine (199) beds. The fee shall be submitted with the application or renewal and is not refundable. When additional beds are licensed, the licensing procedures for new facilities must be followed and the difference between the fee previously paid and the fee for the new bed capacity, if any, must be paid.

- (5) Renewal.

(Rule 0720-18-.02, continued)

- (a) In order to renew a license, each nursing home shall submit to periodic inspections by Department surveyors for compliance with these rules. If deficiencies are noted, the licensee shall submit an acceptable plan of corrective action and shall remedy the deficiencies. In addition, each licensee shall submit a renewal form approved by the board and applicable renewal fee prior to the expiration date of the license.
- (b) If a licensee fails to renew its license prior to the date of its expiration but submits the renewal form and fee within sixty (60) days thereafter, the licensee may renew late by paying, in addition to the renewal fee, a late penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) per month for each month or fraction of a month that renewal is late; provided that the late penalty shall not exceed twice the renewal fee.
- (c) In the event that a licensee fails to renew its license within the sixty (60) day grace period following the license expiration date, then the licensee shall reapply for a license by submitting the following to the Board office:
  1. A completed application for licensure;
  2. The license fee provided in Rule 0720-18-.02(4); and
  3. Any other information required by the Health Services and Development Agency.
- (d) Upon reapplication, the licensee shall submit to an inspection of the facility by Department of Health surveyors.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-201, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-206(a)(5) [effective January 1, 2009], 68-11-209, 68-11-209(a)(1), 68-11-210, and 68-11-216 and Chapter 846 of the Public Acts of 2008, § 1. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed December 30, 1986; effective February 13, 1987. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed November 19, 2003; effective February 2, 2004. Amendment filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Amendment filed January 19, 2007; effective April 4, 2007. Public necessity rules filed April 29, 2009; effective through October 11, 2009. Emergency rules filed October 9, 2009; effective through April 7, 2010. Amendments filed September 24, 2009; effective December 23, 2009. Amendment filed December 16, 2013; effective March 16, 2014. Amendments filed March 21, 2018; to have been effective June 19, 2018. However, on May 24, 2018, the Government Operations Committee filed a 5-day stay; new effective date June 24, 2018. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

### 0720-18-.03 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

- (1) The board may suspend or revoke a license for:
  - (a) Violation of federal statutes or rules;
  - (b) Violation of state statutes or the rules as set forth in this chapter;
  - (c) Permitting, aiding or abetting the commission of any illegal act in the nursing home;
  - (d) Conduct or practice found by the board to be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the residents of the nursing home; and,
  - (e) Failure to renew the license.

(Rule 0720-18-.03, continued)

- (2) The board may consider all factors which it deems relevant, including but not limited to the following, when determining sanctions:
  - (a) The degree of sanctions necessary to ensure immediate and continued compliance;
  - (b) The character and degree of impact of the violation on the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the facility;
  - (c) The conduct of the facility in taking all feasible steps or procedures necessary or appropriate to comply or correct the violation; and,
  - (d) Any prior violations by the facility of statutes, rules or orders of the Commissioner or the board.
- (3) The Board shall have the authority to place a facility on probation. To be considered for probation, a facility must have had at least two (2) separate substantiated complaint investigation surveys within six (6) months, where each survey had at least one deficiency cited at the level of substandard quality of care or immediate jeopardy, as those terms are defined at 42 CFR 488.301. None of the surveys can have been initiated by an unusual event or incident self reported by the facility.
  - (a) If a facility meets the criteria for probation, the board may hold a hearing at its next regularly scheduled meeting to determine if the facility should be placed on probation. Prior to initiating such a hearing, the board shall provide notice to the facility detailing what specific non-compliance the board had identified that the facility must respond to at the probation hearing.
  - (b) Prior to imposing probation, the board may consider and address in its findings all factors which it deems relevant, including, but not limited to, the following:
    1. What degree of sanctions is necessary to ensure immediate and continued compliance; and
    2. Whether the non-compliance was an unintentional error or omission, or was not fully within the control of the facility; and
    3. Whether the nursing home recognized the non-compliance and took steps to correct the identified issues, including whether the facility notified the department of the non-compliance either voluntarily or as required by state law or regulations; and
    4. The character and degree of impact of the non-compliance on the health, safety and welfare of the patient or patients in the facility; and
    5. The conduct of the facility in taking all feasible steps or procedures necessary or appropriate to comply or correct the non-compliance; and
    6. The facility's prior history of compliance or non-compliance.
- (4) If the Board places a facility on probation, the facility shall detail in a plan of correction those specific actions, which when followed, will correct the non-compliance identified by the board.
- (5) During the period of probation, the facility must make reports on a schedule determined by the board. These reports must demonstrate and explain to the board how the facility is implementing the actions identified in its plan of correction. In making such reports, the board

(Rule 0720-18-.03, continued)

shall not require the facility to disclose any information protected as privileged and confidential under any state or federal law or regulation.

- (6) The Board is authorized at any time during the probation to remove the probational status of the facility's license, based upon information presented to it showing that the conditions identified by the board have been corrected and are reasonably likely to remain corrected.
- (7) The Board must rescind the probational status of the facility if it determines that the facility has complied with its plan of correction as submitted and approved by the board, unless the facility has additional non-compliance that warrants an additional term of probation as defined in T.C.A. § 68-11-207(e)(1).
- (8) A single period of probation for a facility shall not extend beyond twelve (12) months. If the board determines during or at the end of the probation that the facility is not taking steps to correct non-compliance or otherwise not responding in good faith pursuant to the plan of correction, the board may take any additional action as authorized by law.
- (9) The hearing to place a facility on probation and judicial review of the board's decision shall be in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act.
- (10) When a nursing home is found by the department to have committed a violation of this chapter, the department will issue to the facility a statement of deficiencies. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the statement of deficiencies, the facility must return a plan of correction indicating the following:
  - (a) How the deficiency will be corrected;
  - (b) The date upon which each deficiency will be corrected;
  - (c) What measures or systemic changes will be put in place to ensure that the deficient practice does not recur; and,
  - (d) How the corrective action will be monitored to ensure that the deficient practice does not recur.
- (11) Either failure to submit a plan of correction in a timely manner or a finding by the department that the plan of correction is unacceptable shall subject the nursing home's license to possible disciplinary action.
- (12) Whenever the Commissioner exercises the authority to suspend the admission of any new resident(s) to the nursing home because of detrimental conditions, as provided by T.C.A. § 68-11-207(b), the nursing home shall post a copy of the Commissioner's order upon the public entrance doors of the facility and prominently display it there for so long as it remains effective. During the suspension of admissions, the nursing home shall inform any person who inquires about the admission of a new resident of the provisions of the order and make a copy of the order available.
- (13) Any licensee or applicant for a license, aggrieved by a decision or action of the department or board, pursuant to this chapter, may request a hearing before the board. The proceedings and judicial review of the board's decision shall be in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. §§ 4-5-101, et seq.
- (14) Reconsideration and Stays. The Board authorizes the member who chaired the Board for a contested case to be the agency member to make the decisions authorized pursuant to Rule 1360-04-01-.18 regarding petitions for reconsiderations and stays in that case.

(Rule 0720-18-.03, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 4-5-219, 4-5-312, 4-5-316, 4-5-317, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, and 68-11-206 through 68-11-209. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed December 30, 1986; effective February 13, 1987. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed May 24, 2004; August 7, 2004. Amendment filed March 1, 2007; effective May 15, 2007. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### 0720-18-.04 ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) The nursing home shall have a full-time (working at least 32 hours per week) administrator licensed in Tennessee, who shall not function as the director of nursing. Any change of administrators shall be reported in writing to the department within fifteen (15) days. The administrator shall designate in writing an individual to act in his/her absence in order to provide the nursing home with administrative direction at all times. The administrator shall assure the provision of appropriate fiscal resources and personnel required to meet the needs of the residents.
- (2) The hospital administrator may serve as the administrator of a hospital-based nursing home provided that he/she is a Tennessee licensed nursing home administrator, the facilities are located on the same campus, and the surveys do not reflect substandard care.
- (3) Any agreement to manage a nursing home must be reported in writing to the department within fifteen (15) days of its implementation.
- (4) Upon the unexpected loss of the facility administrator, the facility shall proceed according to the following provisions:
  - (a) The term "unexpected loss" means the absence of a nursing home administrator due to serious illness or incapacity, unplanned hospitalization, death, resignation with less than thirty (30) days notice or unplanned termination.
  - (b) The facility must notify the department within twenty-four (24) hours after notice of the unexpected loss of the administrator. Notification to the department shall identify an individual to be responsible for administration of the facility for the immediate future not to exceed thirty (30) days. This responsible individual need not be licensed as an administrator and may be the facility's director of nursing.
  - (c) Within seven (7) days of notice of the unexpected loss, the facility must request a waiver of the appropriate regulations from the board.
  - (d) On or before the expiration of thirty (30) days after notice of the unexpected loss, the facility shall appoint a temporary administrator to serve until either a permanent administrator is employed or the request for a waiver is considered by the board, whichever occurs first. The temporary administrator shall be any of the following:
    1. A full-time administrator licensed in Tennessee or any other state;
    2. One (1) or more part-time administrators licensed in Tennessee. Part-time shall not be less than twenty (20) hours per week; or,
    3. A full-time candidate for licensure as a Tennessee administrator who has completed the required training and the application process. Such candidate shall be scheduled for the next licensure exam and is eligible for the continued administrator role only with the successful completion of that exam.

(Rule 0720-18-.04, continued)

- (e) The procedures set forth above shall be followed until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board in which the board considers the facility's application for a waiver. After reviewing the circumstances, the board may grant, refuse or condition a waiver as necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the facility.
  - (f) Any facility which follows these procedures shall not be subject to a civil penalty for absence of an administrator at any time preceding the board's consideration of the facility's request for a waiver.
- (5) The facility shall make reasonable efforts to safeguard personal property and promptly investigate complaints of such loss. A record shall be prepared of all clothing, personal possessions and money brought by the resident to the nursing home at the time of admission. The record shall be filled out in duplicate. One copy of the record shall be given to the resident or the resident's representative and the original shall be maintained in the nursing home record. This record shall be updated as additional personal property is brought to the facility.
  - (6) The facility shall maintain a surety bond on all resident funds held in trust. Such surety bonds shall be sufficient to cover the amount of such funds. The surety bond shall be an agreement between the company issuing the bond and the nursing home and shall remain in the possession of the nursing home.
  - (7) If the facility holds resident funds, such funds shall be kept in an account separate from the facility's funds. Resident funds shall not be used by the facility. The facility shall maintain and allow each resident access to a written record of all financial arrangements and transactions involving the individual resident's funds. The facility shall provide each resident or his/her representative with a written itemized statement at least quarterly of all financial transactions involving the resident's funds.
  - (8) Within thirty (30) days of a resident's death, the facility shall provide an accounting of the resident's funds held by the facility and an inventory of the resident's personal property held by the facility to the resident's executor, administrator or other person authorized by law to receive the decedent's property. The facility shall obtain a signed receipt from any person to whom the decedent's property is transferred.
  - (9) Upon the sale of the facility, the seller shall provide written verification that all the resident's funds and property have been transferred and shall obtain a signed receipt from the new owner. Upon receipt, the buyer shall provide, to the residents, an accounting of funds and property held on their behalf.
  - (10) When licensure is applicable for a particular job, verification of the current license must be included as a part of the personnel file. Each personnel file shall contain accurate information as to the education, training, experience and personnel background of the employee. Documentation that references were verified shall be on file. Documentation that all appropriate abuse registries have been checked shall be on file. Adequate medical screenings to exclude communicable disease shall be required of each employee.
  - (11) Prior to employment, all nursing homes shall complete a criminal background check on any person who will be in a position which involves providing direct care to a resident or patient.
    - (a) Any person who applies for employment in a position which involves providing direct patient care to a resident in such a facility shall consent to:
      - 1. Provide past work and personal references to be checked by the nursing home; and/or

(Rule 0720-18-.04, continued)

2. Agree to release and use of any and all information and investigative records necessary for the purpose of verifying whether the individual has been convicted of a criminal offense in the state of Tennessee, to either the nursing home or its agent, to any agency that contracts with the state of Tennessee, to any law enforcement agency, or to any other legally authorized entity; and/or
  3. Supply a fingerprint sample and submit to a state criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations, or a state and federal criminal history records check to be conducted by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and/or
  4. Release any information required for a criminal background investigation by a professional background screening organization or criminal background check service or registry.
- (b) A nursing home shall not disclose criminal background check information obtained to a person who is not involved in evaluating a person's employment, except as required or permitted by state or federal law.
- (c) Any costs incurred by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, professional background screening organization, law enforcement agency, or other legally authorized entity, in conducting such investigations of such applicants may be paid by the nursing home, or any agency that contracts with the state of Tennessee requesting such investigation and information, or the individual who seeks employment or is employed. Payment of such costs to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation are to be made in accordance with T.C.A. §§ 38-6-103 and 38-6-109. The costs of conducting criminal background checks shall be an allowable cost under the state Medicaid program, if paid for by the nursing home.
- (d) Criminal background checks are also required by any organization, company, or agency that provides or arranges for the supply of direct care staff to any nursing home licensed in the state of Tennessee. Such company, organization, or agency shall be responsible for initiating a criminal background check on any person hired by that entity for the purpose of working in a nursing home, and shall be required to report the results of the criminal background check to any facility in which the organization arranges the employee to work, upon request by a facility.
- (e) A nursing home that declines to employ or terminates a person based upon criminal background information provided to the facility shall be immune from suit by or on behalf of that person for the termination of or the refusal to employ that person.
- (12) Whenever the rules of this chapter require that a licensee develop a written policy, plan, procedure, technique, or system concerning a subject, the licensee shall develop the required policy, maintain it and adhere to its provisions. A nursing home which violates a required policy also violates the rule establishing the requirement.
- (13) Policies and procedures shall be consistent with professionally recognized standards of practice.
- (14) No nursing home shall retaliate against or, in any manner, discriminate against any person because of a complaint made in good faith and without malice to the board, the department, the Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services, the long term care ombudsman, the Comptroller of the State Treasury, or any government agency. A nursing home shall neither retaliate, nor discriminate, because of information lawfully provided to these authorities, because of a person's cooperation with them, or because a person is subpoenaed to testify at a hearing involving one of these authorities.

(Rule 0720-18-.04, continued)

- (15) Each nursing home shall adopt safety policies for the protection of residents from accident and injury.
- (16) Each nursing home shall post whether they have liability insurance, the identity of their primary insurance carrier, and if self-insured, the corporate entity responsible for payment of any claims. It shall be posted on a sign no smaller than eleven inches (11") in width and seventeen inches (17") in height and displayed at the main public entrance.
- (17) Documentation pertaining to the payment agreement between the nursing home and the resident shall be completed prior to admission. A copy of the documentation shall be given to the resident and the original shall be maintained in the nursing home records.
- (18) The nursing home shall ensure a framework for addressing issues related to care at the end of life.
- (19) The nursing home shall provide a process that assesses pain in all patients. There shall be an appropriate and effective pain management program.
- (20) The nursing home shall carry out the following functions, all of which shall be documented in a written medical equipment management plan:
  - (a) Develop and maintain a current itemized inventory of medical equipment used in the facility, that is owned or leased by the operator of the facility;
  - (b) Develop and maintain a schedule for the maintenance, inspection and testing of medical equipment according to manufacturers' recommendations or other generally accepted standards. The schedule shall include the date and time such maintenance, inspection and testing was actually performed, and the name of the individual who performed such tasks; and
  - (c) Ensure maintenance, inspection and testing were conducted by facility personnel adequately trained in such procedures or by a contractor qualified to perform such procedures.
- (21) All health care facilities licensed pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 68-11-201, *et seq.* shall post on a sign no smaller than eight and one-half inches (8½") in width and eleven inches (11") in height the following in the main public entrance:
  - (a) A statement that any person, regardless of age, who may be the victim of domestic violence may call the nationwide domestic violence hotline, with that number printed in boldface type, for immediate assistance.
- (22) "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol, consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it, shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at every entrance.
- (23) Residents of the facility are exempt from the smoking prohibition. The resident smoking practices shall be governed by the policies and procedures established by the facility. Smoke from such areas shall not infiltrate into the areas where smoking is prohibited.
- (24) The facility shall develop a concise statement of its charity care policies and shall post such statement in a place accessible to the public.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 39-17-1803, 39-17-1804, 39-17-1805, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-209, 68-11-225, 68-11-254, 68-11-256, 68-11-257, 68-11-268, 68-11-906, and 71-6-121.

(Rule 0720-18-.04, continued)

**Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed May 24, 1985; effective June 23, 1985. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed October 22, 1987; effective December 6, 1987. Amendment filed May 10, 1990; effective June 24, 1990. Amendment filed March 9, 1992; effective April 23, 1992. Amendment filed March 10, 1995; effective May 24, 1995. Amendment filed June 13, 1997; effective August 27, 1997. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed June 18, 2002; effective September 1, 2002. Amendment filed May 24, 2004; effective August 7, 2004. Amendment filed February 23, 2007; effective May 9, 2007. Amendment filed July 18, 2007; effective October 1, 2007. Amendment filed February 22, 2010; effective May 23, 2010. Amendment filed October 20, 2015; effective January 18, 2016. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.05 ADMISSIONS, DISCHARGES, AND TRANSFERS.**

- (1) Every person admitted for care or treatment shall be under the supervision of a physician who holds a license in good standing to practice in Tennessee. The name of the resident's attending physician shall be recorded in the resident's medical record. The nursing home shall not admit the following types of residents:
  - (a) Persons who pose a clearly documented danger to themselves or to other residents in the nursing home.
  - (b) Children under fourteen (14) years of age, except when the department has approved the admission of a specific child.
  - (c) Persons for whom the nursing home is not capable of providing the care ordered by the attending physician. Documentation of the reason(s) for refusal of the admission shall be maintained.
- (2) A diagnosis must be entered in the admission records of the nursing home for every person admitted for care or treatment.
- (3) Prior to the admission of a resident to a nursing home or prior to the execution of a contract for the care of a resident in a nursing home (whichever occurs first), each nursing home shall disclose in writing to the resident or to the resident's guardian, conservator or representative, if any, whether the facility has liability insurance and the identity of the primary insurance carrier. If the facility is self-insured, their statement shall reflect that fact and indicate the corporate entity responsible for payment of any claims.
- (4) Any residential facility licensed by the board of licensing health care facilities shall upon admission provide to each resident the division of adult protective services' statewide toll-free number: 888-277-8366.
- (5) Facilities utilizing secured units must be able to provide survey staff with twelve (12) months of the following performance information specific to the secured unit and its residents:
  - (a) Documentation that each secured resident has been evaluated by an interdisciplinary team consisting of at least a physician, a social worker, a registered nurse, and a family member (or patient care advocate) prior to admittance to the unit;
  - (b) Ongoing and up-to-date documentation of quarterly review by each resident's interdisciplinary team as to the appropriateness of placement in the secured unit;
  - (c) A current listing of the number of deaths and hospitalizations with diagnoses that have occurred on the unit;

(Rule 0720-18-.05, continued)

- (d) A current listing of all unusual incidents and/or complications on the unit;
- (e) An up-to-date staffing pattern and staff ratios for the unit is recorded on a daily basis. The staffing pattern must ensure that there is a minimum of one (1) attendant, awake, on duty, and physically located on the unit twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week at all times;
- (f) A formulated calendar of daily group activities scheduled including a resident attendance record for the previous three (3) months;
- (g) An up-to-date listing of any incidences of decubitus and/or nosocomial infections, including resident identifiers; and,
- (h) Documentation showing that 100% of the staff working on the unit receives and has received annual in-service training which shall include, but not be limited to the following subject areas:
  - 1. Basic facts about the causes, progression and management of Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders;
  - 2. Dealing with dysfunctional behavior and catastrophic reactions in the residents;
  - 3. Identifying and alleviating safety risks to the resident;
  - 4. Providing assistance in the activities of daily living for the resident; and,
  - 5. Communicating with families and other persons interested in the resident.
- (6) The facility shall ensure that no person on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or handicap, will be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service of the facility. The facility shall protect the civil rights of residents under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- (7) Any admission in excess of the licensed bed capacity is prohibited except when an emergency admission is directed by the department.
- (8) No resident shall be discharged without a written order from the attending physician or through other legal processes and timely notification of next of kin and/or sponsor or authorized representative, if any. Each nursing home shall establish a policy for handling patients who wish to leave against medical advice.
- (9) When a resident is discharged, a brief description of the significant findings and events of the resident's stay in the nursing home, the condition on discharge and the recommendation and arrangement for future care, if any, shall be provided.
- (10) No resident shall be transferred without a written order from the attending physician or through other legal processes and timely notification of next of kin and/or sponsor or authorized representative, if any.
- (11) When a resident is transferred, a summary of treatment given at the nursing home, condition of the resident at time of transfer and date and place to which he is transferred shall be entered in the record. If the transfer is due to an emergency, this information will be recorded within forty-eight (48) hours, otherwise, it will precede the transfer of the resident.

(Rule 0720-18-.05, continued)

- (12) When a resident is transferred, a copy of the clinical summary shall, with consent of the resident, be sent to the nursing home that will continue the care of the resident.
- (13) Where an involuntary transfer is proposed, in addition to any other relevant factors, the following factors shall be taken into account:
  - (a) The traumatic effect on the resident.
  - (b) The proximity of the proposed nursing home to the present nursing home and to the family and friends of the resident.
  - (c) The availability of necessary medical and social services at the proposed nursing home.
  - (d) Compliance by the proposed nursing home with all applicable federal and state regulations.
- (14) When the attending physician has ordered a resident transferred or discharged, but the resident or a representative of the resident opposes the action, the nursing home shall counsel with the resident, the next of kin, sponsor and representative, if any, in an attempt to resolve the dispute and shall not transfer the resident until such counseling has been provided. No involuntary transfer or discharge shall be made until the nursing home has first informed the department and the area long-term care ombudsman. Unless a disaster occurs on the premises or the attending physician orders the transfer as a medical emergency (due to the resident's immediate need for a higher level of care) no involuntary transfer or discharge shall be made until five (5) business days after these agencies have been notified, unless they each earlier declare that they have no intention of intervening.
- (15) Except when the Board has revoked or suspended the license, a nursing home which intends to close, cease doing business, or reduce its licensed bed capacity by ten percent (10%) or more shall notify both the department and the area long-term care ombudsman at the earliest moment of the decision, but not later than thirty (30) days before the action is to be implemented. The facility shall establish a protocol, subject to the department's approval, for the transfer or discharge of the residents. Should the nursing home violate the provisions of this paragraph, the department shall request the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee to intervene to protect the residents, as is provided by T.C.A. § 68-11-213(a).

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-201, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-209, 68-11-257, and 71-6-121. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed April 10, 2000; effective June 24, 2000. Amendment filed February 23, 2007; effective May 9, 2007. Amendment filed April 17, 2007; effective July 1, 2007. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.06 BASIC SERVICES.**

- (1) Performance Improvement.
  - (a) The nursing home must ensure that there is an effective, facility-wide performance improvement program to evaluate resident care and performance of the organization.
  - (b) The performance improvement program must be ongoing and have a written plan of implementation which assures that:
    1. All organized services related to resident care, including services furnished by a contractor, are evaluated;

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

2. Nosocomial infections and medication therapy are evaluated;
  3. All services performed in the facility are evaluated as to the appropriateness of diagnosis and treatment; and
  4. The facility shall develop and implement a system for measuring improvements in adherence to the hand hygiene program and influenza vaccination program.
- (c) The nursing home must have an ongoing plan, consistent with available community and facility resources, to provide or make available services that meet the medically related needs of its residents.
- (d) The facility must develop and implement plans for improvement to address deficiencies identified by the performance improvement program and must document the outcome of the remedial action.
- (e) Performance improvement program records are not disclosable, except when such disclosure is required to demonstrate compliance with this section.
- (f) Good faith attempts by the performance improvement program committee to identify and correct deficiencies will not be used as a basis for sanctions.
- (2) Physician Services.
- (a) Policies and procedures concerning services provided by the nursing home shall be available for the admitting physicians.
  - (b) Residents shall be aided in receiving dental care as deemed necessary.
  - (c) Each nursing home shall retain by written agreement a physician to serve as a Medical Director.
  - (d) The Medical Director shall be responsible for the medical care in the nursing home. The Medical Director shall:
    1. Delineate the responsibilities of and communicate with attending physicians to ensure that each resident receives medical care;
    2. Ensure the delivery of emergency and medical care when the resident's attending physician or his/her designated alternate is unavailable;
    3. Review reports of all accidents or unusual incidents occurring on the premises, identifying hazards to health and safety and recommending corrective action to the administrator;
    4. Make periodic visits to the nursing home to evaluate the existing conditions and make recommendations for improvements;
    5. Review and take appropriate action on reports from the Director of Nursing regarding significant clinical developments;
    6. Monitor the health status of nursing home personnel to ensure that no health conditions exist which would adversely affect residents; and,

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

7. Advise and provide consultation on matters regarding medical care, standards of care, surveillance and infection control.
- (3) Infection Control.
- (a) The nursing home must provide a sanitary environment to avoid sources and transmission of infections and communicable diseases. There must be an active program for the prevention, control, and investigation of infections and communicable diseases.
  - (b) The physical environment shall be maintained in such a manner to assure the safety and well being of the residents.
    1. Any condition on the nursing home site conducive to the harboring or breeding of insects, rodents or other vermin shall be prohibited. Chemical substances of a poisonous nature used to control or eliminate vermin shall be properly identified. Such substances shall not be stored with or near food or medications.
    2. Cats, dogs or other animals shall not be allowed in any part of the facility except for specially trained animals for the handicapped and except as addressed by facility policy for pet therapy programs. The facility shall designate in its policies and procedures those areas where animals will be excluded. The areas designated shall be determined based upon an assessment of the facility performed by medically trained personnel.
    3. Telephones shall be readily accessible and at least one (1) shall be equipped with sound amplification and shall be accessible to wheelchair residents.
    4. Equipment and supplies for physical examination and emergency treatment of residents shall be available.
    5. A bed complete with mattress and pillow shall be provided. In addition, resident units shall be provided with at least one chair, a bedside table, an over bed tray and adequate storage space for toilet articles, clothing and personal belongings.
    6. Individual wash cloths, towels and bed linens must be provided for each resident. Linen shall not be interchanged from resident to resident until it has been properly laundered.
    7. Bath basin water service, emesis basin, bedpan and urinal shall be individually provided.
    8. Water pitchers, glasses, thermometers, emesis basins, douche apparatus, enema apparatus, urinals, mouthwash cups, bedpans and similar items of equipment coming into intimate contact with residents shall be disinfected or sterilized after each use unless individual equipment for each is provided and then sterilized or disinfected between residents and as often as necessary to maintain them in a clean and sanitary condition. Single use, resident disposable items are acceptable but shall not be reused.
    9. The facility shall have written policies and procedures governing care of residents during the failure of the air conditioning, heating or ventilation system, including plans for hypothermia and hyperthermia. When the temperature of any resident area falls below 65°F or exceeds 85°F, or is reasonably expected to do so, the facility shall be alerted to the potential danger, and the department shall be notified.

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

- (c) The administrator shall assure that an infection control program including members of the medical staff, nursing staff and administrative staff develop guidelines and techniques for the prevention, surveillance, control and reporting of facility infections. Duties of the program shall include the establishment of:
1. Written infection control policies;
  2. Techniques and systems for identifying, reporting, investigating and controlling infections in the facility;
  3. Written procedures governing the use of aseptic techniques and procedures in the facility;
  4. Written procedures concerning food handling, laundry practices, disposal of environmental and resident wastes, traffic control and visiting rules, sources of air pollution, and routine culturing of autoclaves and sterilizers;
  5. A log of incidents related to infectious and communicable diseases;
  6. Formal provisions to educate and orient all appropriate personnel in the practice of aseptic techniques such as handwashing, proper grooming, masking, dressing care techniques, disinfecting and sterilizing techniques, and the handling and storage of resident care equipment and supplies; and,
  7. Continuing education for all facility personnel on the cause, effect, transmission, prevention, and elimination of infections.
- (d) The administrator, the medical staff and director of nursing services must ensure that the facility-wide performance improvement program and training programs address problems identified by the infection control program and must be responsible for the implementation of successful corrective action plans in affected problem areas.
- (e) The facility shall develop policies and procedures for testing a resident's blood for the presence of the hepatitis B virus and the HIV virus in the event that an employee of the facility, a student studying at the facility, or other health care provider rendering services at the facility is exposed to a resident's blood or other body fluid. The testing shall be performed at no charge to the resident, and the test results shall be confidential.
- (f) The facility and its employees shall adopt and utilize standard precautions (per CDC) for preventing transmission of infections, HIV, and communicable diseases, including adherence to a hand hygiene program which shall include:
1. Use of alcohol-based hand rubs or use of non-antimicrobial or antimicrobial soap and water before and after each patient contact if hands are not visibly soiled;
  2. Use of gloves during each patient contact with blood or where other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin could occur and gloves changed before and after each patient contact;
  3. Use of either a non-antimicrobial soap and water or an antimicrobial soap and water for visibly soiled hands; and
  4. Health care worker education programs which may include:

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

- (i) Types of patient care activities that can result in hand contamination;
  - (ii) Advantages and disadvantages of various methods used to clean hands;
  - (iii) Potential risks of health care workers' colonization or infection caused by organisms acquired from patients; and
  - (iv) Morbidity, mortality, and costs associated with health care associated infections.
- (g) All nursing homes shall adopt appropriate policies regarding the testing of residents and staff for HIV and any other identified causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.
- (h) The facility shall document evidence of annual vaccination against influenza for each resident, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control most recent to the time of the vaccine. Influenza vaccination is medically contraindicated or the resident has refused the vaccine. Influenza vaccination for all residents accepting the vaccine shall be completed by November 30 of each year or within ten (10) days of the vaccine becoming available. Residents admitted after this date during the flu season and up to February 1, shall as medically appropriate, receive influenza vaccination prior to or on admission unless refused by the resident.

The facility shall document evidence of vaccination against pneumococcal disease for all residents who are 65 years of age or older, in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control at the time of vaccination, unless such vaccination is medically contraindicated or the resident has refused offer of the vaccine. The facility shall provide or arrange the pneumococcal vaccination of residents who have not received this immunization prior to or on admission unless the resident refuses offer of the vaccine.

- (i) A nursing home shall have an annual influenza vaccination program which shall include at least:
1. The offer of influenza vaccination to all staff and independent practitioners at no cost to the person or acceptance of documented evidence of vaccination from another vaccine source or facility. The nursing home will encourage all staff and independent practitioners to obtain an influenza vaccination;
  2. A signed declination statement on record from all who refuse the influenza vaccination for reasons other than medical contraindications (a sample form is available at <http://tennessee.gov/health/topic/hcf-provider>);
  3. Education of all employees about the following:
    - (i) Flu vaccination,
    - (ii) Non-vaccine control measures, and
    - (iii) The diagnosis, transmission, and potential impact of influenza;
  4. An annual evaluation of the influenza vaccination program and reasons for non-participation; and

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

5. A statement that the requirements to complete vaccinations or declination statements shall be suspended by the administrator in the event of a vaccine shortage as declared by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee.
- (j) Precautions shall be taken to prevent the contamination of sterile supplies by soiled supplies. Sterile supplies shall be packaged and stored in a manner that protects the sterility of the contents. Decontamination and preparation areas shall be separated.
- (k) Space and facilities for housekeeping equipment and supply storage shall be provided in each service area. Storage for bulk supplies and equipment shall be located away from patient care areas. The building shall be kept in good repair, clean, sanitary and safe at all times.
- (l) The facility shall appoint a housekeeping supervisor who shall be responsible for:
  1. Organizing and coordinating the facility's housekeeping service;
  2. Acquiring and storing sufficient housekeeping supplies and equipment for facility maintenance; and,
  3. Assuring the clean and sanitary condition of the facility to provide a safe and hygienic environment for residents and staff. Cleaning shall be accomplished in accordance with the infection control rules herein and facility policy.
- (m) Laundry facilities located in the nursing home shall:
  1. Be equipped with an area for receiving, processing, storing and distributing clean linen;
  2. Be located in an area that does not require transportation for storage of soiled or contaminated linen through food preparation, storage or dining areas;
  3. Provide space for storage of clean linen within nursing units and for bulk storage within clean areas of the facility; and,
  4. Provide carts, bags or other acceptable containers appropriately marked to identify those used for soiled linen and those used for clean linen to prevent dual utilization of the equipment and cross contamination.
- (n) The facility shall name an individual who is responsible for laundry service. This individual shall be responsible for:
  1. Establishing a laundry service, either within the nursing home or by contract, that provides the facility with sufficient clean, sanitary linen at all times;
  2. Knowing and enforcing infection control rules and regulations for the laundry service;
  3. Assuring the collection, packaging, transportation and storage of soiled, contaminated, and clean linen is in accordance with all applicable infection control rules and procedures; and,
  4. Assuring that a contract laundry service complies with all applicable infection control rules and procedures.

(4) Nursing Services.

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

- (a) Each nursing home must have an organized nursing service that provides twenty-four (24) hour nursing services furnished or supervised by a registered nurse. Each home shall have a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse on duty at all times and at least two (2) nursing personnel on duty each shift.
- (b) The facility must have a well-organized nursing service with a plan of administrative authority and delineation of responsibilities for resident care. The Director of Nursing (DON) must be a licensed registered nurse who has no current disciplinary actions against his/her license. The DON is responsible for the operation of the service, including determining the types and numbers of nursing personnel and staff necessary to provide nursing care for all areas of the facility.
- (c) The Director of Nursing shall have the following responsibilities:
  - 1. Develop, maintain and periodically update:
    - (i) Nursing service objectives and standards of practice;
    - (ii) Nursing service policy and procedure manuals;
    - (iii) Written job descriptions for each level of nursing personnel;
    - (iv) Methods for coordination of nursing service with other resident services; and,
    - (v) Mechanisms for monitoring quality of nursing care, including the periodic review of medical records.
  - 2. Participate in selecting prospective residents in terms of the nursing services they need and nursing competencies available.
  - 3. Make daily rounds to see residents.
  - 4. Notify the resident's physician when medically indicated.
  - 5. Review each resident's medications periodically and notify the physician where changes are indicated.
  - 6. Supervise the administration of medications.
  - 7. Supervise assignments of the nursing staff for the direct care of all residents.
  - 8. Plan, develop and conduct monthly in-service education programs for nursing personnel and other employees of the nursing home where indicated. An organized orientation program shall be developed and implemented for all nursing personnel.
  - 9. Supervise and coordinate the feeding of all residents who need assistance.
  - 10. Coordinate the dietary requirements of residents with the staff responsible for the dietary service.
  - 11. Coordinate housekeeping personnel.
  - 12. Assure that discharge planning is initiated in a timely manner.

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

13. Assure that residents, along with their necessary medical information, are transferred or referred to appropriate facilities, agencies or outpatient services, as needed, for follow-up or ancillary care.
- (d) The nursing service must have adequate numbers of licensed registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nurse aides to provide nursing care to all residents as needed. Nursing homes shall provide a minimum of two (2) hours of direct care to each resident every day including 0.4 hours of licensed nursing personnel time. There must be supervisory and staff personnel for each department or nursing unit to ensure, when needed, the availability of a licensed nurse for bedside care of any resident.
- (e) A registered nurse must supervise and evaluate the nursing care for each resident.
- (f) The facility must ensure that an appropriate individualized plan of care is prepared for each resident with input from appropriate disciplines, the resident and/or the resident's family or the resident's representative.
- (g) A registered nurse must assign the nursing care of each resident to other nursing personnel in accordance with the resident's needs and the specialized qualifications and competence of the nursing staff available.
- (h) Non-employee licensed nurses who are working in the nursing home must adhere to the policies and procedures of the facility. The director of the nursing service must provide for the adequate supervision and evaluation of the clinical activities of non-employee nursing personnel which occur within the responsibility of the nursing service.
- (i) All drugs, devices and related materials must be administered by, or under the supervision of, nursing or other personnel in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, including applicable licensing requirements, and in accordance with the approved medical staff policies and procedures.
- (j) There must be a facility procedure for reporting adverse drug reactions and errors in administration of drugs.
- (k) When non-employees are utilized as sitters or attendants, they shall be under the authority of the nursing service and their duties shall be set forth clearly in written nursing service policies.
- (l) Each resident shall be given proper personal attention and care of skin, feet, nails and oral hygiene in addition to the specific professional nursing care as ordered by the resident's physician.
- (m) Medications, treatments, and diet shall be carried out as prescribed to safeguard the resident, to minimize discomfort and to attain the physician's objective.
- (n) Residents shall have baths or showers at least two (2) times each week, or more often if requested by the resident.
- (o) Body position of residents in bed or chair bound shall be changed at least every two (2) hours, day and night, while maintaining good body alignment. Proper skin care shall be provided for bony prominences and weight bearing parts to prevent discomfort and the development of pressure areas, unless contraindicated by physician's orders.

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

- (p) Residents who are incontinent shall have partial baths each time the bed or bed clothing has been wet or soiled. The soiled or wet bed linen and the bed clothing shall be replaced with clean, dry linen and clothing immediately after being soiled.
  - (q) Residents shall have shampoos, haircuts and shaves as needed, or desired.
  - (r) Rehabilitation measures such as assisting patients with range of motion, prescribed exercises and bowel and bladder retraining programs shall be carried out according to the individual needs and abilities of the resident.
  - (s) Residents shall be active and out of bed except when contraindicated by written physician's orders.
  - (t) Residents shall be encouraged to achieve independence in activities of daily living, self-care, and ambulation as a part of daily care.
  - (u) Residents shall have clean clothing as needed and shall be kept free from odor.
  - (v) Residents' weights shall be taken and recorded at least monthly unless contraindicated by a physician's order.
  - (w) Physical restraints shall be checked every thirty (30) minutes and released every two (2) hours so the resident may be exercised and offered toilet access.
  - (x) Restraints may be applied or administered to residents only on the signed order of a physician. The signed physician's order must be for a specified and limited period of time and must document the necessity of the restraint. There shall be no standing orders for restraints.
  - (y) When a resident's safety or safety of others is in jeopardy, the nurse in charge shall use his/her judgment to use physical restraints if a physician's order cannot be immediately obtained. A written order must be obtained as soon as possible.
  - (z) Locked restraints are prohibited.
  - (aa) Assistance with eating shall be given to the resident as needed in order for the resident to receive the diet for good health care.
  - (bb) Abnormal food intake will be evaluated and recorded.
  - (cc) A registered nurse may make the actual determination and pronouncement of death under the following circumstances:
    - 1. The deceased was a resident of a nursing home;
    - 2. The death was anticipated, and the attending physician or nursing home medical director has agreed in writing to sign the death certificate. Such agreement by the attending physician or nursing home medical director must be present with the deceased at the place of death;
    - 3. The nurse is licensed by the state; and,
    - 4. The nurse is employed by the nursing home in which the deceased resided.
- (5) Medical Records.

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

- (a) The nursing home shall comply with the Tennessee Medical Records Act, T.C.A. §§ 68-11-301, et seq.
- (b) The nursing home must maintain a medical record for each resident. Medical records must be accurate, promptly completed, properly filed and retained, and accessible. The facility must use a system of author identification and record maintenance that ensures the integrity of the authentication and protects the security of all record entries.
- (c) All medical records, in either written, electronic, graphic or otherwise acceptable form, must be retained in their original or legally reproduced form for a minimum period of at least ten (10) years after which such records may be destroyed. However, in cases of residents under mental disability or minority, their complete facility records shall be retained for the period of minority or known mental disability, plus one (1) year, or ten (10) years following the discharge of the resident, whichever is longer. Records destruction shall be accomplished by burning, shredding or other effective method in keeping with the confidential nature of the contents. The destruction of records must be made in the ordinary course of business, must be documented and in accordance with the facility's policies and procedures, and no record may be destroyed on an individual basis.
- (d) When a nursing home closes with no plans of reopening, an authorized representative of the facility may request final storage or disposition of the facility's medical records by the department. Upon transfer to the department, the facility relinquishes all control over final storage of the records and the files shall become property of the State of Tennessee.
- (e) The nursing home must have a system of coding and indexing medical records. The system must allow for timely retrieval by diagnosis and procedure.
- (f) The nursing home must have a procedure for ensuring the confidentiality of resident records. Information from or copies of records may be released only to authorized individuals, and the facility must ensure that unauthorized individuals cannot gain access to or alter resident records. Original medical records must be released by the facility only in accordance with federal and state laws, court orders or subpoenas.
- (g) The medical record must contain information to justify admission, support the diagnosis, and describe the resident's progress and response to medications and services.
- (h) All entries must be legible, complete, dated and authenticated according to facility policy.
- (i) All records must document the following:
  1. Evidence of a physical examination, including a health history, performed no more than thirty (30) days prior to admission or within forty-eight (48) hours following admission;
  2. Admitting diagnosis;
  3. A dietary history as part of each resident's admission record;
  4. Results of all consultative evaluations of the resident and appropriate findings by clinical and other staff involved in the care of the resident;

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

5. Documentation of complications, facility acquired infections, and unfavorable reactions to drugs;
  6. Properly executed informed consent forms for procedures and treatments specified by facility policy, or by federal or state law if applicable, as requiring written resident consent;
  7. All practitioners' orders, nursing notes, reports of treatment, medication records, radiology and laboratory reports, and vital signs and other information necessary to monitor the resident's condition;
  8. Discharge summary with disposition of case and plan for follow-up care; and,
  9. Final diagnosis with completion of medical records within thirty (30) days following discharge.
- (j) Electronic and computer-generated records and signature entries are acceptable.
- (6) Pharmaceutical Services.
- (a) The nursing home shall have pharmaceutical services that meet the needs of the residents and are in accordance with the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy statutes and rules. The medical staff is responsible for developing policies and procedures that minimize drug errors.
  - (b) All internal and external medications and preparations intended for human use shall be stored separately. They shall be properly stored in medicine compartments, including cabinets on wheels, or drug rooms. Such cabinets or drug rooms shall be kept securely locked when not in use, and the key must be in the possession of the supervising nurse or other authorized persons. Poisons or external medications shall not be stored in the same compartment and shall be labeled as such.
  - (c) Schedule II drugs must be stored behind two (2) separately locked doors at all times and accessible only to persons in charge of administering medication.
  - (d) Every nursing home shall comply with all state and federal regulations governing Schedule II drugs.
  - (e) A notation shall be made in a Schedule II drug book and in the resident's nursing notes each time a Schedule II drug is given. The notation shall include the name of the resident receiving the drug, name of the drug, the dosage given, the method of administration, the date and time given and the name of the physician prescribing the drug.
  - (f) All oral orders shall be immediately recorded, designated as such and signed by the person receiving them and countersigned by the physician within ten (10) days.
  - (g) All orders for drugs, devices and related materials must be in writing and signed by the practitioner or practitioners responsible for the care of the resident. Electronic and computer-generated records and signature entries are acceptable. When telephone or oral orders must be used, they shall be:
    1. Accepted only by personnel that are authorized to do so by the medical staff policies and procedures, consistent with federal and state law; and,

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

2. Signed or initialed by the prescribing practitioner according to nursing home policy.
  - (h) Medications not specifically limited as to time or number of doses when ordered are controlled by automatic stop orders or other methods in accordance with written policies. No Schedule II drug shall be given or continued beyond seventy-two (72) hours without a written order by the physician.
  - (i) Medication administration records (MAR) shall be checked against the physician's orders. Each dose shall be properly recorded in the clinical record after it has been administered.
  - (j) Preparation of doses for more than one scheduled administration time shall not be permitted.
  - (k) Medication shall be administered only by licensed medical or licensed nursing personnel or other licensed health professionals acting within the scope of their licenses.
  - (l) Unless the unit dose package system is used, individual prescriptions of drugs shall be kept in the original container with the original label intact showing the name of the resident, the drug, the physician, the prescription number and the date dispensed.
  - (m) Legend drugs shall be dispensed by a licensed pharmacist.
  - (n) Nursing homes may participate in drug donation repository programs as defined in Title 63, Chapter 10 and may use such programs for drug disposal services. The facility's participation in a drug donation repository program shall be outlined in the facility's policies and procedures.
  - (o) Alternatively, if a nursing home declines to participate in the drug donation repository program or in the case of drugs not acceptable under the program, any unused portions of prescription drugs shall be turned over to the resident only on a written order by the physician. If not turned over to the resident, such unused drugs left in a nursing home must be destroyed on the premises by a licensed nurse and a witness. The facility's policies and procedures shall outline person(s) who may serve as a witness and methodology. The facility's policies and procedures must be in compliance with applicable DEA regulations.
- (7) Radiology Services. The nursing home must maintain or have available diagnostic radiologic services according to the needs of the residents. If therapeutic services are also provided, they, as well as the diagnostic services, must meet professionally approved standards for safety and personnel qualifications.
- (8) Laboratory Services. The nursing home must maintain or have available, either directly or through a contractual agreement, adequate laboratory services to meet the needs of the residents. The nursing home must ensure that all laboratory services provided to its residents are performed in a facility licensed in accordance with the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Act (TMLA). All technical laboratory staff shall be licensed in accordance with the TMLA and shall be qualified by education, training and experience for the type of services rendered.
- (9) Food and Dietetic Services.
  - (a) The nursing home must have organized dietary services that are directed and staffed by adequate qualified personnel. A facility may contract with an outside food management company if the company has a dietitian who serves the facility on a full-

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

time, part-time, or consultant basis, and if the company maintains at least the minimum standards specified in this paragraph and provides for constant liaison with the facility medical staff for recommendations on dietetic policies affecting resident treatment. If an outside contract is utilized for management of its dietary services, the facility shall designate a full-time employee to be responsible for the overall management of the services.

- (b) The nursing home must designate a person, either directly or by contractual agreement, to serve as the food and dietetic services director with responsibility for the daily management of the dietary services. The food and dietetic services director shall be:
  - 1. A qualified dietitian; or,
  - 2. A graduate of a dietetic technician or dietetic assistant training program, correspondence or classroom, approved by the American Dietetic Association; or,
  - 3. An individual who has successfully completed in-person or online coursework that provided ninety (90) or more hours of classroom instruction in food service supervision. If the course has not been completed, this person shall be enrolled in a course and making satisfactory progress for completion within the time limit specified by the course requirement; or,
  - 4. An individual who is a certified dietary manager (CDM), or certified food protection professional (CFPP); or,
  - 5. A current or former member of the U.S. military who has graduated from an approved military dietary manager training program.
- (c) There must be a qualified dietitian, full-time, part-time, or on a consultant basis, who is responsible for the development and implementation of a nutrition care process to meet the needs of residents for health maintenance, disease prevention and, when necessary, medical nutrition therapy to treat an illness, injury or condition. Medical nutrition therapy includes assessment of the nutritional status of the resident and treatment through diet therapy, counseling and/or use of specialized nutrition supplements.
- (d) Menus must meet the needs of the residents.
  - 1. Therapeutic diets must be prescribed by the practitioner or practitioners responsible for the care of the residents and must be prepared and served as prescribed.
  - 2. Special diets shall be prepared and served as ordered.
  - 3. Nutritional needs must be met in accordance with recognized dietary practices and in accordance with orders of the practitioner or practitioners responsible for the care of the residents.
  - 4. A current therapeutic diet manual approved by the dietitian and medical staff must be readily available to all medical, nursing, and food service personnel.
- (e) Education programs, including orientation, on-the-job training, inservice education, and continuing education shall be offered to dietetic services personnel on a regular basis.

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

Programs shall include instruction in the use of equipment, personal hygiene, proper inspection, and the handling, preparing and serving of food.

- (f) A minimum of three (3) meals in each twenty-four (24) hour period shall be served. A supplemental night meal shall be served if more than fourteen (14) hours lapse between supper and breakfast. Additional nourishments shall be provided to patients with special dietary needs. A minimum of three (3) days supply of food shall be on hand.
  - (g) Menus shall be prepared at least one week in advance. A dietitian shall be consulted to help write and plan the menus. If any change in the actual food served is necessary, the change shall be made on the menu to designate the foods actually served to the residents. Menus of food served shall be kept on file for a thirty (30) day period.
  - (h) The dietitian or designee shall have a conference, dated on the medical chart, with each resident and/or family within two (2) weeks of admission to discuss the diet plan indicated by the physician. The resident's dietary preferences shall be recorded and utilized in planning his/her daily menu.
  - (i) Food shall be protected from dust, flies, rodents, unnecessary handling, droplet infection, overhead leakage and other sources of contamination whether in storage or while being prepared and served and/or transported through hallways.
  - (j) Perishable food shall not be allowed to stand at room temperature except during necessary periods of preparation or serving. Prepared foods shall be kept hot (140°F or above) or cold (45°F or less). Appropriate equipment for temperature maintenance, such as hot and cold serving units or insulated containers, shall be used.
  - (k) All nursing homes shall have commercial automatic dishwashers approved by the National Sanitation Foundation. Dishwashing machines shall be used according to manufacturer specifications.
  - (l) All dishes, glassware and utensils used in the preparation and serving of food and drink shall be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
  - (m) The cleaning and sanitizing of handwashed dishes shall be accomplished by using a three-compartment sink according to the current "U.S. Public Health Service Sanitation Manual."
  - (n) The kitchen shall contain sufficient refrigeration equipment and space for the storage of perishable foods.
  - (o) All refrigerators and freezers shall have thermometers. Refrigerators shall be kept at a temperature not to exceed 45°F. Freezers shall be kept at a temperature not to exceed 0°F.
  - (p) Written policies and procedures shall be followed concerning the scope of food services in accordance with the current edition of the "U.S. Public Health Service Recommended Ordinance and Code Regulating Eating and Drinking Establishments" and the current "U.S. Public Health Service Sanitation Manual" should be used as a guide to food sanitation.
- (10) Social Work Services.
- (a) Social services must be available to the resident, the resident's family and other persons significant to the resident, in order to facilitate adjustment of these individuals

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

to the impact of illness and to promote maximum benefits from the health care services provided.

- (b) Social work services shall include psychosocial assessment, counseling, coordination of discharge planning, community liaison services, financial assistance and consultation.
  - (c) A resident's social history shall be obtained within two (2) weeks of admission and shall be appropriately maintained.
  - (d) Social work services shall be provided by a qualified social worker.
  - (e) Facilities for social work services shall be readily accessible and shall permit privacy for interviews and counseling.
- (11) Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy Services.
- (a) Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy shall be provided directly or through contractual agreement by individuals who meet the qualifications specified by nursing home policy, consistent with state law.
  - (b) Speech therapy services shall be provided only by or under supervision of a qualified speech language pathologist in good standing, or by a person qualified as a Clinical Fellow subject to Tennessee Board of Communications Disorders and Sciences Rule 1370-01-.10.
  - (c) A licensed physical therapist shall be in charge of the physical therapy service and a licensed occupational therapist shall be in charge of the occupational therapy service.
  - (d) Direct contact shall exist between the resident and the therapist for those residents that require treatment ordered by a physician.
  - (e) The physical therapist and occupational therapist, pursuant to a physician order, shall provide treatment and training designed to preserve and improve abilities for independent functions, such as: range of motion, strength, tolerance, coordination and activities of daily living.
  - (f) Therapy services shall be coordinated with the nursing service and made a part of the resident care plan.
  - (g) Sufficient staff shall be made available to provide the service offered.
- (12) Ventilator Services. A nursing home that provides ventilator services shall meet or exceed the following minimum standards by:
- (a) Ensuring a licensed respiratory care practitioner as defined by Tennessee Code Annotated Section 63-27-102(7), shall be physically present at the facility twenty four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week to provide:
    - 1. Ventilator care;
    - 2. Administration of medical gases;
    - 3. Administration of aerosol medications; and
    - 4. Diagnostic testing and monitoring of life support systems;

(Rule 0720-18-.06, continued)

- (b) Ensuring that an appropriate, individualized plan of care is prepared for each patient requiring ventilator services. The plan of care shall be developed with input and participation from a pulmonologist or a physician with experience in ventilator care;
- (c) Ensuring that admissions criteria is established to ensure the medical stability of ventilator-dependent patients prior to transfer from an acute care setting;
- (d) Ensuring that Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) is readily available in order to document the patient's acid base status and/or End Tidal Carbon Dioxide (etCO<sub>2</sub>) and whether continuous pulse oximetry measurements should be performed in lieu of ABG studies;
- (e) Ensuring that an audible, redundant external alarm system is located outside of each ventilator-dependent patient's room for the purpose of alerting caregivers of patient disconnection, ventilator disconnection or ventilator failure;
- (f) Ensuring that the nursing home is equipped with emergency suction equipment and an adequate number of Ambu bags for manual ventilation;
- (g) Ensuring that ventilator equipment is connected to electrical outlets connected to back-up generator power;
- (h) Ensuring that ventilators are equipped with battery back-up systems;
- (i) Ensuring that the nursing home is equipped to employ the use of current ventilator technology consistent with meeting patients' needs for mobility and comfort; and
- (j) Ensuring that a back-up ventilator is available at all times.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-3-511, 68-11-201, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-207, 68-11-209, 68-11-216, 68-11-240, 68-11-241, and 68-11-801. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed January 29, 1991; effective March 15, 1991. Amendment filed December 29, 1992; effective February 15, 1993. Amendment filed June 15, 1993; effective July 30, 1993. Amendment filed April 17, 1996; effective July 1, 1996. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed March 29, 2000; effective June 12, 2000. Amendment filed September 13, 2002; effective November 27, 2002. Amendment filed September 4, 2003; effective November 18, 2003. Amendment filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Amendment filed July 18, 2007; effective October 1, 2007. Amendment filed January 3, 2012; effective April 2, 2012. Amendment filed December 16, 2013; effective March 16, 2014. Amendment filed September 15, 2015; effective December 14, 2015. Amendments filed July 18, 2016; effective October 16, 2016. Emergency rule filed February 28, 2018; effective through August 27, 2018. Amendments filed April 19, 2018; effective July 18, 2018. Emergency rules filed May 29, 2020; effective through November 25, 2020. Emergency rules expired effective November 26, 2020, and the rules reverted to their previous statuses. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

**0720-18-.07 SPECIAL SERVICES: ALZHEIMER'S UNITS.** Structurally distinct parts of a nursing home may be designated as special care units for ambulatory residents with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders. Such units shall be designed to encourage self-sufficiency, independence and decision-making skills, and may admit residents only after the unit is found to be in compliance with licensure standards and upon final approval by the department. Units which hold themselves out to the public as providing specialized Alzheimer's services shall comply with the provisions of T.C.A. § 68-11-1404 and shall be in compliance with the following minimum standards:

- (1) In order to be admitted to the special care unit:

(Rule 0720-18-.07, continued)

- (a) A diagnosis of dementia must be made by a physician. The specific etiology causing the dementia shall be identified to the best level of certainty prior to admission to the special care unit; and,
  - (b) The need for admission must be determined by an interdisciplinary team consisting at least of a physician experienced in the management of residents with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders, a social worker, a registered nurse and a relative of the resident or a resident care advocate.
- (2) Special care units shall be separated from the remaining portion of the nursing home by a locked door and must have extraordinary and acceptable fire safety features and policies which ensure the well being and protection of the residents.
- (3) The residents must have direct access to a secured, therapeutic outdoor area. This outdoor area shall be designed and maintained to facilitate emergency evacuation.
- (4) There must be limited access to the designated unit so that visitors and staff do not pass through the unit to get to other areas of the nursing home.
- (5) Each unit must contain a designated dining/activity area which shall accommodate 100% seating for residents.
- (6) Corridors or open spaces shall be designed to facilitate ambulation and activity, and shall have an unobstructed view from the central working or nurses' station.
- (7) Drinking facilities shall be provided in the central working area or nurses' station and in the primary activities areas. Glass front refrigerators may be used.
- (8) The unit shall be designed, equipped and maintained to promote positive resident response through the use of:
  - (a) Reduced-glare lighting, wall and floor coverings, and materials and decorations conducive to appropriate sensory and visual stimulation; and,
  - (b) Meaningful wandering space shall be provided that encourages physical exercise and ensures that residents will not become frustrated upon reaching dead-ends.
- (9) The designated units shall provide a minimum of 3.5 hours of direct care to each resident every day including .75 hours of licensed nursing personnel time. Direct care shall not be limited to nursing personnel time and may include direct care provided by dietary employees, social workers, administrator, therapists and other care givers, including volunteers.
- (10) In addition to the classroom instruction required in the nurse aide training program, each nurse aide assigned to the unit shall have forty (40) hours of classroom instruction which shall include but not be limited to the following subject areas:
  - (a) Basic facts about the causes, progression and management of Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders;
  - (b) Dealing with dysfunctional behavior and catastrophic reactions in the resident;
  - (c) Identifying and alleviating safety risks to the resident;
  - (d) Providing assistance in the activities of daily living for the resident; and,

(Rule 0720-18-.07, continued)

- (e) Communicating with families and other persons interested in the resident.
- (11) Each resident shall have a treatment plan developed, periodically reviewed and implemented by an interdisciplinary treatment team consisting at least of a physician experienced in the management of residents with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders, a registered nurse, a social worker, an activity coordinator and a relative of the resident or a resident care advocate.
- (12) A protocol for identifying and alleviating job related stress among staff on the special care unit must be developed and carried out.
- (13) The staff of the unit shall organize a support group for families of residents which meets at least quarterly for the purpose of:
  - (a) Providing ongoing education for families;
  - (b) Permitting families to give advice about the operation of the unit;
  - (c) Alleviating stress in family members; and
  - (d) Resolving special problems relating to the residents in the unit.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-209, and 68-11-1404.  
**Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.08 BUILDING STANDARDS.**

- (1) A nursing home shall construct, arrange, and maintain the condition of the physical plant and the overall nursing home environment in such a manner that the safety and well-being of the residents are assured.
- (2) After the applicant has submitted an application and licensure fees, the applicant must submit the building construction plans to the department. All facilities shall conform to the current edition of the following applicable codes as approved by the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities: International Building Code (excluding Chapters 1 and 11) including referenced International Fuel Gas Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Plumbing Code; National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NFPA 101 Life Safety Code excluding referenced NFPA 5000; Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities (FGI) including referenced Codes and Standards; U.S. Public Health Service Food Code; and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design. When referring to height, area or construction type, the International Building Code shall prevail. Where there are conflicts between requirements in local codes, the above listed codes, regulations and provisions of this chapter, the most stringent requirements shall apply.
- (3) The codes in effect at the time of submittal of plans and specifications, as defined by these rules, shall be the codes to be used throughout the project.
- (4) The licensed contractor shall perform all new construction and renovations to nursing homes, other than minor alterations not affecting fire and life safety or functional issues, in accordance with the specific requirements of these regulations governing new construction in nursing homes, including the submission of phased construction plans and the final drawings and the specifications to each.

(Rule 0720-18-.08, continued)

- (5) No new nursing home shall be constructed, nor shall major alterations be made to an existing nursing home without prior written approval of the department, and unless in accordance with plans and specifications approved in advance by the department. Before any new nursing home is licensed or before any alteration or expansion of a licensed nursing home can be approved, the applicant must furnish two (2) complete sets of plans and specifications to the department, together with fees and other information as required. Plans and specifications for new construction and major renovations, other than minor alterations not affecting fire and life safety or functional issues, shall be prepared by or under the direction of a licensed architect and/or a licensed engineer and in accordance with the rules of the Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.
- (6) Final working drawings and specifications shall be accurately dimensioned and include all necessary explanatory notes, schedules and legends. The working drawings and specifications shall be complete and adequate for contract purposes.
- (7) Detailed plans shall be drawn to a scale of at least one-eighth inch equals one foot (1/8" = 1'), and shall show the general arrangement of the building, the intended purpose and the fixed equipment in each room, with such additional information as the department may require. An architect or engineer licensed to practice in the State of Tennessee shall prepare the plans the department requires.
  - (a) The project architect or engineer shall forward two (2) sets of plans to the appropriate section of the department for review. After receipt of approval of phased construction plans, the owner may proceed with site grading and foundation work prior to receipt of approval of final plans and specifications with the owner's understanding that such work is at the owner's own risk and without assurance that final approval of final plans and specifications shall be granted. The project architect or engineer shall submit final plans and specifications for review and approval. The department must grant final approval before the project proceeds beyond foundation work.
  - (b) Review of plans does not eliminate responsibility of owner and/or architect to comply with all rules and regulations.
- (8) Specifications shall supplement all drawings. They shall describe the characteristics of all materials, products and devices, unless fully described and indicated on the drawings. Specification copies should be bound in an 8½ x 11 inch folder.
- (9) Drawings and specifications shall be prepared for each of the following branches of work: Architectural, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical and Sprinkler.
- (10) Architectural drawings shall include where applicable:
  - (a) Plot plan(s) showing property lines, finish grade, location of existing and proposed structures, roadways, walks, utilities and parking areas;
  - (b) Floor plan(s) showing scale drawings of typical and special rooms, indicating all fixed and movable equipment and major items of furniture;
  - (c) Separate life safety plans showing the compartment(s), all means of egress and exit markings, exits and travel distances, dimensions of compartments and calculation and tabulation of exit units. All fire and smoke walls must be identified;
  - (d) The elevation of each facade;
  - (e) The typical sections throughout the building;

(Rule 0720-18-.08, continued)

- (f) The schedule of finishes;
  - (g) The schedule of doors and windows;
  - (h) Roof plans;
  - (i) Details and dimensions of elevator shaft(s), car platform(s), doors, pit(s), equipment in the machine room, and the rates of car travel must be indicated for elevators; and
  - (j) Code analysis.
- (11) Structural drawings shall include where applicable:
- (a) Plans of foundations, floors, roofs and intermediate levels which show a complete design with sizes, sections and the relative location of the various members;
  - (b) Schedules of beams, girders and columns; and
  - (c) Design live load values for wind, roof, floor, stairs, guard, handrails, and seismic.
- (12) Mechanical drawings shall include where applicable:
- (a) Specifications which show the complete heating, ventilating, fire protection, medical gas systems and air conditioning systems;
  - (b) Water supply, sewerage and HVAC piping systems;
  - (c) Pressure relationships shall be shown on all floor plans;
  - (d) Heating, ventilating, HVAC piping, medical gas systems and air conditioning systems with all related piping and auxiliaries to provide a satisfactory installation;
  - (e) Water supply, sewage and drainage with all lines, risers, catch basins, manholes and cleanouts clearly indicated as to location, size, capacities, etc., and location and dimensions of septic tank and disposal field; and
  - (f) Color coding to show clearly supply, return and exhaust systems.
- (13) Electrical drawings shall include where applicable:
- (a) A seal, certifying that all electrical work and equipment is in compliance with all applicable codes and that all materials are currently listed by recognized testing laboratories;
  - (b) All electrical wiring, outlets, riser diagrams, switches, special electrical connections, electrical service entrance with service switches, service feeders and characteristics of the light and power current, and transformers when located within the building;
  - (c) An electrical system that complies with applicable codes;
  - (d) Color coding to show all items on emergency power;
  - (e) Circuit breakers that are properly labeled; and

(Rule 0720-18-.08, continued)

- (f) Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) that are required in all wet areas, such as kitchens, laundries, janitor closets, bath and toilet rooms, etc, and within six (6) feet of any lavatory.
- (14) The electrical drawings shall not include knob and tube wiring, shall not include electrical cords that have splices, and shall not show that the electrical system is overloaded.
  - (15) In all new facilities or renovations to existing electrical systems, the installation must be approved by an inspector or agency authorized by the State Fire Marshal.
  - (16) Sprinkler drawings shall include where applicable:
    - (a) Shop drawings, hydraulic calculations, and manufacturer cut sheets;
    - (b) Site plan showing elevation of fire hydrant to building, test hydrant, and flow data (data from within a 12-month period); and
    - (c) Show "Point of Service" where water is used exclusively for fire protection purposes.
  - (17) The licensed contractor shall not install a system of water supply, plumbing, sewage, garbage or refuse disposal nor materially alter or extend any existing system until the architect or engineer submits complete plans and specifications for the installation, alteration or extension to the department demonstrating that all applicable codes have been met and the department has granted necessary approval.
    - (a) Before the nursing home is used, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation shall approve the water supply system.
    - (b) Sewage shall be discharged into a municipal system or approved package system where available; otherwise, the sewage shall be treated and disposed of in a manner of operation approved by the Department of Environment and Conservation and shall comply with existing codes, ordinances and regulations which are enforced by cities, counties or other areas of local political jurisdiction.
    - (c) Water distribution systems shall be arranged to provide hot water at each hot water outlet at all times. Hot water at shower, bathing and hand washing facilities shall be between 105°F and 115°F.
  - (18) It shall be demonstrated through the submission of plans and specifications that in each nursing home a negative air pressure shall be maintained in the soiled utility area, toilet room, janitor's closet, dishwashing and other such soiled spaces, and a positive air pressure shall be maintained in all clean areas including, but not limited to, clean linen rooms and clean utility rooms.
  - (19) The department shall acknowledge that it has reviewed plans and specifications in writing with copies sent to the project architect, the project engineer, the owner, the manager or other executive of the institution. The department may modify the distribution of such review at its discretion.
  - (20) In the event submitted materials do not appear to satisfactorily comply with 0720-18-.08(2), the department shall furnish a letter to the party submitting the plans which shall list the particular items in question and request further explanation and/or confirmation of necessary modifications.
  - (21) The licensed contractor shall execute all construction in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.

(Rule 0720-18-.08, continued)

- (22) If construction begins within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of department approval, the department's written notification of satisfactory review constitutes compliance with 0720-18-.08(2). This approval shall in no way permit and/or authorize any omission or deviation from the requirements of any restrictions, laws, regulations, ordinances, codes or rules of any responsible agency.
- (23) Prior to final inspection, a CD Rom disc, in TIF or PDF format, of the final approved plans including all shop drawings, sprinkler, calculations, hood and duct, addenda, specifications, etc., shall be submitted to the department.
- (24) The department requires the following alarms that shall be monitored twenty-four (24) hours per day:
  - (a) Fire alarms;
  - (b) Generators (if applicable); and
  - (c) Medical gas alarms (if applicable).
- (25) Each nursing home shall ensure that an emergency keyed lock box is installed next to each bank of functioning elevators located on the main level. Such lock boxes shall be permanently mounted seventy-two inches (72") from the floor to the center of the box, be operable by a universal key no matter where such box is located, and shall contain only fire service keys and drop keys to the appropriate elevators.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-57, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-209, and 68-11-261. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed July 3, 1984; effective August 1, 1984. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed October 22, 1987; effective December 6, 1987. Amendment filed February 11, 1992; effective March 27, 1992. Amendment filed January 6, 1995; effective March 22, 1995. Amendment filed June 13, 1997; effective August 27, 1997. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed February 18, 2003; effective May 4, 2003. Repeal and new rule filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Amendment filed February 23, 2007; effective May 9, 2007. Repeal and new rule filed December 20, 2011; effective March 19, 2012. Amendment filed January 21, 2016; effective April 20, 2016. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.09 LIFE SAFETY.**

- (1) Any nursing home which complies with the required applicable building and fire safety regulations at the time the board adopts new codes or regulations will, so long as such compliance is maintained (either with or without waivers of specific provisions), be considered to be in compliance with the requirements of the new codes or regulations.
- (2) The nursing home shall provide fire protection by the elimination of fire hazards, by the installation of necessary fire fighting equipment and by the adoption of a written fire control plan. Fire drills shall be held at least quarterly for each work shift for nursing home personnel in each separate patient-occupied nursing home building. There shall be a written report documenting the evaluation of each drill and the action recommended or taken for any deficiencies found. Records which document and evaluate these drills must be maintained for at least three (3) years. All fires which result in a response by the local fire department shall be reported to the department within seven (7) days. The report shall contain sufficient information to ascertain the nature and location of the fire, its probable cause and any injuries incurred by any person or persons as a result of the fire. Initial reports by the facility may omit the name(s) of resident(s) and parties involved, however, should the department find the

(Rule 0720-18-.09, continued)

identities of such persons to be necessary to an investigation, the facility shall provide such information.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, and 68-11-209.

**Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Repeal and new rule filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.10 INFECTIOUS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE.**

- (1) Each nursing home must develop, maintain and implement written policies and procedures for the definition and handling of its infectious and hazardous wastes. These policies and procedures must comply with the standards of this section and all other applicable state and federal regulations.
- (2) The following waste shall be considered to be infectious waste:
  - (a) Waste contaminated by residents who are isolated due to communicable disease, as provided in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control "Guidelines for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals";
  - (b) Cultures and stocks of infectious agents including specimen cultures collected from medical and pathological laboratories, cultures and stocks of infectious agents from research and industrial laboratories, waste from the production of biologicals, discarded live and attenuated vaccines, culture dishes and devices used to transfer, inoculate, and mix cultures;
  - (c) Waste human blood and blood products such as serum, plasma, and other blood components;
  - (d) All discarded sharps (e.g., hypodermic needles, syringes, pasteur pipettes, broken glass, scalpel blades) used in resident care or which have come into contact with infectious agents during use in medical, research, or industrial laboratories; or,
  - (e) Other waste determined to be infectious by the facility in its written policy.
- (3) Infectious and hazardous waste must be segregated from other waste at the point of generation, i.e., the point at which the material becomes a waste within the facility.
- (4) Waste must be packaged in a manner that will protect waste handlers and the public from possible injury and disease that may result from exposure to the waste. Such packaging must provide for containment of the waste from the point of generation up to the point of proper treatment or disposal. Packaging must be selected and utilized for the type of waste the package will contain, how the waste will be treated and disposed, and how it will be handled and transported prior to treatment and disposal.
  - (a) Contaminated sharps must be directly placed in leakproof, rigid, and puncture-resistant containers which must then be tightly sealed.
  - (b) Whether disposable or reusable, all containers, bags, and boxes used for containment and disposal of infectious waste must be conspicuously identified. Packages containing infectious waste which pose additional hazards (e.g., chemical, radiological) must also be conspicuously identified to clearly indicate those additional hazards.

(Rule 0720-18-.10, continued)

- (c) Reusable containers for infectious waste must be thoroughly sanitized each time they are emptied, unless the surfaces of the containers have been completely protected from contamination by disposable liners or other devices removed with the waste.
  - (d) Opaque packaging must be used for pathological waste.
- (5) After packaging, waste must be handled and transported by methods ensuring containment and preserving the integrity of the packaging, including the use of secondary containment where necessary.
- (a) Infectious waste must not be compacted or ground (i.e., in a mechanical grinder) prior to treatment, except that pathological waste may be ground prior to disposal.
  - (b) Plastic bags of infectious waste must be transported by hand.
- (6) Waste must be stored in a manner which preserves the integrity of the packaging, inhibits rapid microbial growth and putrefaction, and minimizes the potential of exposure or access by unknowing persons. Waste must be stored in a manner and location which affords protection from animals, precipitation, wind, and direct sunlight, does not present a safety hazard, does not provide a breeding place or food source for insects or rodents and does not create a nuisance.
- (7) In the event of spills, ruptured packaging, or other incidents where there is a loss of containment of waste, the facility must ensure that proper actions are immediately taken to:
- (a) Isolate the area from the public and all except essential personnel;
  - (b) To the extent practicable, repackage all spilled waste and contaminated debris in accordance with the requirements of this rule;
  - (c) Sanitize all contaminated equipment and surfaces appropriately. Written policies and procedures must specify how this will be done; and,
  - (d) Complete an incident report and maintain a copy on file.
- (8) Except as provided otherwise in this rule, a facility must treat or dispose of infectious waste by one or more of the methods specified in this paragraph.
- (a) A facility may treat infectious waste in an on-site sterilization or disinfection device, or in an incinerator or a steam sterilizer, which has been designed, constructed, operated and maintained so that infectious waste treated in such a device is rendered non-infectious and is, if applicable, authorized for that purpose pursuant to current rules of the Department of Environment and Conservation. A valid permit or other written evidence of having complied with the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Regulations shall be available for review, if required. Each sterilizing or disinfection cycle must contain appropriate indicators to assure conditions were met for proper sterilization or disinfection of materials included in the cycle, and records kept. Proper operation of such devices must be verified at least monthly, and records of these monthly checks shall be available for review. Waste that contains toxic chemicals that would be volatilized by steam must not be treated in steam sterilizers. Infectious waste that has been rendered to carbonized or mineralized ash shall be deemed non-infectious. Unless otherwise hazardous and subject to the hazardous waste management requirements of the current rules of the Department of Environment and Conservation, such ash shall be disposable as a non-hazardous solid waste under current rules of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

(Rule 0720-18-.10, continued)

- (b) The facility may discharge liquid or semi-liquid infectious waste to the collection sewerage system of a wastewater treatment facility which is subject to a permit pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 69-3-101, et seq., provided that such discharge is in accordance with any applicable terms of that permit and/or any applicable municipal sewer use requirements.
  - (c) Any health care facility accepting waste from another state must promptly notify the Department of Environment and Conservation, county, and city public health agencies, and must strictly comply with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.
- (9) The facility may have waste transported off-site for storage, treatment, or disposal. Such arrangements must be detailed in a written contract, available for review. If such off-site location is in Tennessee, the facility must ensure that it has all necessary state and local approvals, and such approvals shall be available for review. If the off-site location is in another state, the facility must notify in writing all public health agencies with jurisdiction that the location is being used for management of the facility's waste. Waste shipped off-site must be packaged in accordance with applicable federal and state requirements. Waste transported to a sanitary landfill in this state must meet the requirements of current rules of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- (10) All garbage, trash and other non-infectious waste shall be stored and disposed of in a manner that shall not permit the transmission of disease, create a nuisance, provide a breeding place for insects and rodents, or constitute a safety hazard. All containers for waste shall be water tight, constructed of easily cleanable material and shall be kept on elevated platforms.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, and 68-11-209. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed July 3, 1984; effective August 1, 1984. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed October 22, 1987; effective December 6, 1987. Amendment filed February 11, 1992; effective March 27, 1992. Amendment filed January 6, 1995; effective March 22, 1995. Amendment filed June 13, 1997; effective August 27, 1997. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.11 RECORDS AND REPORTS.**

- (1) The nursing home shall report each case of communicable disease to the local county health officer in the manner provided by existing regulations. Failure to report a communicable disease may result in disciplinary action, including revocation of the facility's license.
- (2) The nursing home shall report all incidents of abuse, neglect, and misappropriation to the Department of Health in accordance with T.C.A. § 68-11-211.
- (3) The nursing home shall report the following incidents to the Department of Health in accordance with T.C.A. § 68-11-211.
  - (a) Strike by staff at the facility;
  - (b) External disasters impacting the facility;
  - (c) Disruption of any service vital to the continued safe operation of the nursing home or to the health and safety of its patients and personnel; and

(Rule 0720-18-.11, continued)

- (d) Fires at the nursing home that disrupt the provision of patient care services or cause harm to the patients or staff, or that are reported by the facility to any entity, including but not limited to a fire department charged with preventing fires.
- (4) The nursing home shall retain legible copies of the following records and reports for thirty-six months following their issuance. They shall be maintained in a single file and shall be made available for inspection during normal business hours to any person who requests to view them:
- (a) Local fire safety inspections;
  - (b) Local building code inspections, if any;
  - (c) Fire marshal reports;
  - (d) Department licensure and fire safety inspections and surveys;
  - (e) Federal Health Care Financing Administration surveys and inspections, if any;
  - (f) Orders of the Commissioner or Board, if any;
  - (g) Comptroller of the Treasury's audit reports and findings, if any; and,
  - (h) Maintenance records of all safety and patient care equipment.
    - 1. Routine maintenance shall be administered according to the manufacturer's recommended maintenance for the above equipment.
    - 2. Ensure that facility staff or contract personnel are appropriately trained to conduct safety and patient care equipment inspections.
- (5) A yearly statistical report, the "Joint Annual Report of Nursing Homes," shall be submitted to the Department. The forms are mailed to each nursing home by the Department each year. The forms shall be completed and returned to the Department as requested.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-207, 68-11-209, 68-11-210, 68-11-211, 68-11-213, and 68-11-804. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed December 29, 1993; effective February 15, 1993. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed April 11, 2003; effective June 25, 2003. Amendment filed September 4, 2003; effective November 18, 2003. Amendment filed April 17, 2007; effective July 1, 2007. Amendments filed January 3, 2012; effective April 2, 2012. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### **0720-18-.12 RESIDENT RIGHTS.**

- (1) The nursing home shall establish and implement written policies and procedures setting forth the rights of residents for the protection and preservation of dignity, individuality and, to the extent medically feasible, independence. Residents and their families or other representatives shall be fully informed and documentation shall be maintained in the resident's file of the following rights:
- (a) To privacy in treatment and personal care;
  - (b) To privacy, if married, for visits by his/her spouse;

(Rule 0720-18-.12, continued)

- (c) To share a room with his/her spouse (if both are residents);
- (d) To be different, in order to promote social, religious and psychological well being;
- (e) To privately talk and/or meet with and see anyone;
- (f) To send and receive mail promptly and unopened;
- (g) To be free from mental and physical abuse. Should this right be violated, the facility must notify the department within five (5) working days. The Tennessee Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services shall be notified immediately as required in T.C.A. § 71-6-103;
- (h) To be free from chemical and physical restraints;
- (i) To meet with members of and take part in activities of social, commercial, religious and community groups. The administrator may refuse access to the facility to any person if that person's presence would be injurious to the health and safety of a resident or staff, or would threaten the security of the property of the resident, staff or facility;
- (j) To form and attend resident council meetings. The facility shall provide space for meetings and reasonable assistance to the council when requested;
- (k) To retain and use personal clothing and possessions as space permits;
- (l) To be free from being required by the facility to work or perform services;
- (m) To be fully informed by a physician of his/her health and medical condition. The facility shall give the resident and family the opportunity to participate in planning the resident's care and medical treatment;
- (n) To refuse treatment. The resident must be informed of the consequences of that decision. The refusal and its reason must be reported to the physician and documented in the medical record;
- (o) To refuse experimental treatment and drugs. The resident's or health care decision-maker's written consent for participation in research must be obtained and retained in his or her medical record;
- (p) To have their records kept confidential and private. Written consent by the resident must be obtained prior to release of information except to persons authorized by law. If the resident lacks capacity, written consent is required from the resident's health care decision-maker. The nursing home must have policies to govern access and duplication of the resident's record;
- (q) To manage personal financial affairs. Any request by the resident for assistance must be in writing. A request for any additional person to have access to a resident's funds must also be in writing;
- (r) To be told in writing before or at the time of admission about the services available in the facility and about any extra charges, charges for services not covered under Medicare or Medicaid, or not included in the facility's bill;
- (s) To be free from discrimination because of the exercise of the right to speak and voice complaints;

(Rule 0720-18-.12, continued)

- (t) To exercise his/her own independent judgment by executing any documents, including admission forms;
  - (u) To have a free choice of providers of medical services, such as physician and pharmacy. However, medications must be supplied in packaging consistent with the medication system of the nursing home;
  - (v) To be free from involuntary transfer or discharge, except for these reasons:
    - 1. Medical reasons;
    - 2. His/her welfare or that of the other residents; or
    - 3. Nonpayment, except as prohibited by the Medicaid program;
  - (w) To voice grievances and complaints, and to recommend changes in policies and services to the facility staff or outside representatives of the resident's choice. The facility shall establish a grievance procedure and fully inform all residents and family members or other representatives of the procedure;
  - (x) To have appropriate assessment and management of pain; and
  - (y) To be involved in the decision making of all aspects of their care.
- (2) The rights set forth in this section may be abridged, restricted, limited or amended only as follows:
- (a) When medically contraindicated;
  - (b) When necessary to protect and preserve the rights of other residents in the facility; or
  - (c) When contradicted by the explicit provisions of another rule of the board.
- (3) Any reduction in residents' rights based upon medical consideration or the rights of other residents must be explicit, reasonable, appropriate to the justification, and the least restrictive response feasible. They may be time-limited, shall be explained to the resident, and must be documented in the individual resident's record by reciting the limitation's reason and scope. Medical contraindications shall be supported by a physician's order. At least once each month, the administrator and the director of nursing shall review the restriction's justification and scope before removing it, amending it, or renewing it. The names of any residents in the facility whose rights have been restricted under the provisions of this rule shall be maintained on a separate list which shall be available for inspection by the department and by the area long-term care ombudsman.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-209, 68-11-901, and 68-11-902. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 27, 1975; effective April 25, 1975. Repeal and new rule filed July 14, 1983; effective August 15, 1983. Amendment filed May 24, 1985; effective June 23, 1985. Amendment filed March 13, 1986; effective April 12, 1986. Amendment filed October 22, 1987; effective December 6, 1987. Amendment filed May 10, 1990; effective June 24, 1990. Amendment filed March 9, 1992; effective April 23, 1992. Amendment filed March 10, 1995; effective May 24, 1995. Amendment filed June 13, 1997; effective August 27, 1997. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed June 18, 2002; effective September 1, 2002. Amendment filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

**0720-18-.13 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR HEALTH CARE DECISION-MAKING.**

- (1) Pursuant to this rule, each nursing home shall maintain and establish policies and procedures governing the designation of a health care decision-maker for making health care decisions for a resident who is incompetent or who lacks capacity, including but not limited to allowing the withholding of CPR measures from individual residents. An adult or emancipated minor may give an individual instruction. The instruction may be oral or written. The instruction may be limited to take effect only if a specified condition arises.
- (2) An adult or emancipated minor may execute an advance directive for health care. The advance directive may authorize an agent to make any health care decision the resident could have made while having capacity, or may limit the power of the agent, and may include individual instructions. The effect of an advance directive that makes no limitation on the agent's authority shall be to authorize the agent to make any health care decision the resident could have made while having capacity.
- (3) The advance directive shall be in writing, signed by the resident, and shall either be notarized or witnessed by two (2) witnesses. Both witnesses shall be competent adults, and neither of them may be the agent. At least one (1) of the witnesses shall be a person who is not related to the resident by blood, marriage, or adoption and would not be entitled to any portion of the estate of the resident upon the death of the resident. The advance directive shall contain a clause that attests that the witnesses comply with the requirements of this paragraph.
- (4) Unless otherwise specified in an advance directive, the authority of an agent becomes effective only upon a determination that the resident lacks capacity, and ceases to be effective upon a determination that the resident has recovered capacity.
- (5) A facility may use any advanced directive form that meets the requirements of the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act or has been developed and issued by the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities.
- (6) A determination that a resident lacks or has recovered capacity, or that another condition exists that affects an individual instruction or the authority of an agent shall be made by the designated physician, who is authorized to consult with such other persons as he or she may deem appropriate.
- (7) An agent shall make a health care decision in accordance with the resident's individual instructions, if any, and other wishes to the extent known to the agent. Otherwise, the agent shall make the decision in accordance with the resident's best interest. In determining the resident's best interest, the agent shall consider the resident's personal values to the extent known.
- (8) An advance directive may include the individual's nomination of a court-appointed guardian.
- (9) A health care facility shall honor an advance directive that is executed outside of this state by a nonresident of this state at the time of execution if that advance directive is in compliance with the laws of Tennessee or the state of the resident's residence.
- (10) No health care provider or institution shall require the execution or revocation of an advance directive as a condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care.
- (11) Any living will, durable power of attorney for health care, or other instrument signed by the individual, complying with the terms of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 32, Chapter 11, and a durable power of attorney for health care complying with the terms of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 34, Chapter 6, Part 2, shall be given effect and interpreted in accord with those respective acts. Any advance directive that does not evidence an intent to be given

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

effect under those acts but that complies with these regulations may be treated as an advance directive under these regulations.

- (12) A resident having capacity may revoke the designation of an agent only by a signed writing or by personally informing the supervising health care provider.
- (13) A resident having capacity may revoke all or part of an advance directive, other than the designation of an agent, at any time and in any manner that communicates an intent to revoke.
- (14) A decree of annulment, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or legal separation revokes a previous designation of a spouse as an agent unless otherwise specified in the decree or in an advance directive.
- (15) An advance directive that conflicts with an earlier advance directive revokes the earlier directive to the extent of the conflict.
- (16) Surrogates.
  - (a) An adult or emancipated minor may designate any individual to act as surrogate by personally informing the supervising health care provider. The designation may be oral or written.
  - (b) A surrogate may make a health care decision for a resident who is an adult or emancipated minor if and only if:
    1. The resident has been determined by the designated physician to lack capacity, and
    2. No agent or guardian has been appointed, or
    3. The agent or guardian is not reasonably available.
  - (c) In the case of a resident who lacks capacity, the resident's surrogate shall be identified by the supervising health care provider and documented in the current clinical record of the facility at which the resident is receiving health care.
  - (d) The resident's surrogate shall be an adult who has exhibited special care and concern for the resident, who is familiar with the resident's personal values, who is reasonably available, and who is willing to serve.
  - (e) Consideration may be, but need not be, given in order of descending preference for service as a surrogate to:
    1. The resident's spouse, unless legally separated;
    2. The resident's adult child;
    3. The resident's parent;
    4. The resident's adult sibling;
    5. Any other adult relative of the resident; or
    6. Any other adult who satisfies the requirements of 0720-18-.13(16)(d).

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

- (f) No person who is the subject of a protective order or other court order that directs that person to avoid contact with the resident shall be eligible to serve as the resident's surrogate.
- (g) The following criteria shall be considered in the determination of the person best qualified to serve as the surrogate:
  - 1. Whether the proposed surrogate reasonably appears to be better able to make decisions either in accordance with the known wishes of the resident or in accordance with the resident's best interests;
  - 2. The proposed surrogate's regular contact with the resident prior to and during the incapacitating illness;
  - 3. The proposed surrogate's demonstrated care and concern;
  - 4. The proposed surrogate's availability to visit the resident during his or her illness; and
  - 5. The proposed surrogate's availability to engage in face-to-face contact with health care providers for the purpose of fully participating in the decision-making process.
- (h) If the resident lacks capacity and none of the individuals eligible to act as a surrogate under 0720-18-.13(16)(c) through 0720-18-.13(16)(g) is reasonably available, the designated physician may make health care decisions for the resident after the designated physician either:
  - 1. Consults with and obtains the recommendations of a facility's ethics mechanism or standing committee in the facility that evaluates health care issues; or
  - 2. Obtains concurrence from a second physician who is not directly involved in the resident's health care, does not serve in a capacity of decision-making, influence, or responsibility over the designated physician, and is not under the designated physician's decision-making, influence, or responsibility.
- (i) In the event of a challenge, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the selection of the surrogate was valid. Any person who challenges the selection shall have the burden of proving the invalidity of that selection.
- (j) A surrogate shall make a health care decision in accordance with the resident's individual instructions, if any, and other wishes to the extent known to the surrogate. Otherwise, the surrogate shall make the decision in accordance with the surrogate's determination of the resident's best interest. In determining the resident's best interest, the surrogate shall consider the resident's personal values to the extent known to the surrogate.
- (k) A surrogate who has not been designated by the resident may make all health care decisions for the resident that the resident could make on the resident's own behalf, except that artificial nutrition and hydration may be withheld or withdrawn for a resident upon a decision of the surrogate only when the designated physician and a second independent physician certify in the resident's current clinical records that the provision or continuation of artificial nutrition or hydration is merely prolonging the act of dying and the resident is highly unlikely to regain capacity to make medical decisions.
- (l) Except as provided in 0720-18-.13(16)(m):

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

1. Neither the treating health care provider nor an employee of the treating health care provider, nor an operator of a health care institution nor an employee of an operator of a health care institution may be designated as a surrogate; and
  2. A health care provider or employee of a health care provider may not act as a surrogate if the health care provider becomes the resident's treating health care provider.
- (m) An employee of the treating health care provider or an employee of an operator of a health care institution may be designated as a surrogate if:
1. The employee so designated is a relative of the resident by blood, marriage, or adoption; and
  2. The other requirements of this section are satisfied.
- (n) A health care provider may require an individual claiming the right to act as surrogate for a resident to provide written documentation stating facts and circumstances reasonably sufficient to establish the claimed authority.
- (17) Guardian.
- (a) A guardian shall comply with the resident's individual instructions and may not revoke the resident's advance directive absent a court order to the contrary.
  - (b) Absent a court order to the contrary, a health care decision of an agent takes precedence over that of a guardian.
  - (c) A health care provider may require an individual claiming the right to act as guardian for a resident to provide written documentation stating facts and circumstances reasonably sufficient to establish the claimed authority.
- (18) A designated physician who makes or is informed of a determination that a resident lacks or has recovered capacity, or that another condition exists which affects an individual instruction or the authority of an agent, guardian, or surrogate, shall promptly record the determination in the resident's current clinical record and communicate the determination to the resident, if possible, and to any person then authorized to make health care decisions for the resident.
- (19) Except as provided in 0720-18-.13(20) through 0720-18-.13(22), a health care provider or institution providing care to a resident shall:
- (a) Comply with an individual instruction of the resident and with a reasonable interpretation of that instruction made by a person then authorized to make health care decisions for the resident; and
  - (b) Comply with a health care decision for the resident made by a person then authorized to make health care decisions for the resident to the same extent as if the decision had been made by the resident while having capacity.
- (20) A health care provider may decline to comply with an individual instruction or health care decision for reasons of conscience.
- (21) A health care institution may decline to comply with an individual instruction or health care decision if the instruction or decision is:

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

- (a) Contrary to a policy of the institution which is based on reasons of conscience, and
  - (b) The policy was timely communicated to the resident or to a person then authorized to make health care decisions for the resident.
- (22) A health care provider or institution may decline to comply with an individual instruction or health care decision that requires medically inappropriate health care or health care contrary to generally accepted health care standards applicable to the health care provider or institution.
- (23) A health care provider or institution that declines to comply with an individual instruction or health care decision pursuant to 0720-18-.13(20) through 0720-18-.13(22) shall:
- (a) Promptly so inform the resident, if possible, and any person then authorized to make health care decisions for the resident;
  - (b) Provide continuing care to the resident until a transfer can be effected or until the determination has been made that transfer cannot be effected;
  - (c) Unless the resident or person then authorized to make health care decisions for the resident refuses assistance, immediately make all reasonable efforts to assist in the transfer of the resident to another health care provider or institution that is willing to comply with the instruction or decision; and
  - (d) If a transfer cannot be effected, the health care provider or institution shall not be compelled to comply.
- (24) Unless otherwise specified in an advance directive, a person then authorized to make health care decisions for a resident has the same rights as the resident to request, receive, examine, copy, and consent to the disclosure of medical or any other health care information.
- (25) A health care provider or institution acting in good faith and in accordance with generally accepted health care standards applicable to the health care provider or institution is not subject to civil or criminal liability or to discipline for unprofessional conduct for:
- (a) Complying with a health care decision of a person apparently having authority to make a health care decision for a resident, including a decision to withhold or withdraw health care;
  - (b) Declining to comply with a health care decision of a person based on a belief that the person then lacked authority; or
  - (c) Complying with an advance directive and assuming that the directive was valid when made and had not been revoked or terminated.
- (26) An individual acting as an agent or surrogate is not subject to civil or criminal liability or to discipline for unprofessional conduct for health care decisions made in good faith.
- (27) A person identifying a surrogate is not subject to civil or criminal liability or to discipline for unprofessional conduct for such identification made in good faith.
- (28) A copy of a written advance directive, revocation of an advance directive, or designation or disqualification of a surrogate has the same effect as the original.

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

(29) The withholding or withdrawal of medical care from a resident in accordance with the provisions of the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act shall not, for any purpose, constitute a suicide, euthanasia, homicide, mercy killing, or assisted suicide.

(30) Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST).

(a) Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) may be issued by a physician for a patient with whom the physician has a bona fide physician-patient relationship, but only:

1. With the informed consent of the patient;
2. If the patient is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision regarding consent for such an order, upon request of and with the consent of the agent, surrogate, or other person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf under the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act; or
3. If the patient is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision regarding consent for such an order and the agent, surrogate, or other person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf under the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act, is not reasonably available, if the physician determines that the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation would be contrary to accepted medical standards.

(b) A POST may be issued by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist for a patient with whom such physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist has a bona fide physician assistant-patient or nurse-patient relationship, but only if:

1. No physician, who has a bona fide physician-patient relationship with the patient, is present and available for discussion with the patient (or if the patient is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision, with the agent, surrogate, or other person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf under the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act);
2. Such authority to issue is contained in the physician assistant's, nurse practitioner's or clinical nurse specialist's protocols;
3. Either:
  - (i) The patient is a resident of a nursing home licensed under Title 68 or an ICF/MR facility licensed under Title 33 and is in the process of being discharged from the nursing home or transferred to another facility at the time the POST is being issued; or
  - (ii) The patient is a hospital patient and is in the process of being discharged from the hospital or transferred to another facility at the time the POST is being issued; and
4. Either:
  - (i) With the informed consent of the patient;
  - (ii) If the patient is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision regarding consent for such an order, upon request of and with the

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

consent of the agent, surrogate, or other person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf under the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act; or

- (iii) If the patient is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision regarding consent for such an order and the agent, surrogate, or other person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf under the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act, is not reasonably available and such authority to issue is contained in the physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist's protocols and the physician assistant or nurse determines that the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation would be contrary to accepted medical standards.
- (c) If the patient is an adult who is capable of making an informed decision, the patient's expression of the desire to be resuscitated in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest shall revoke any contrary order in the POST. If the patient is a minor or is otherwise incapable of making an informed decision, the expression of the desire that the patient be resuscitated by the person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf shall revoke any contrary order in the POST. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require cardiopulmonary resuscitation of a patient for whom the physician or physician assistant or nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist determines cardiopulmonary resuscitation is not medically appropriate.
- (d) A POST issued in accordance with this section shall remain valid and in effect until revoked. In accordance with this rule and applicable regulations, qualified emergency medical services personnel; and licensed health care practitioners in any facility, program, or organization operated or licensed by the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, or operated, licensed, or owned by another state agency, shall follow a POST that is available to such persons in a form approved by the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities.
- (e) Nothing in these rules shall authorize the withholding of other medical interventions, such as medications, positioning, wound care, oxygen, suction, treatment of airway obstruction or other therapies deemed necessary to provide comfort care or alleviate pain.
- (f) If a person has a do-not-resuscitate order in effect at the time of such person's discharge from a health care facility, the facility shall complete a POST prior to discharge. If a person with a POST is transferred from one health care facility to another health care facility, the health care facility initiating the transfer shall communicate the existence of the POST to qualified emergency medical service personnel and to the receiving facility prior to the transfer. The transferring facility shall provide a copy of the POST that accompanies the patient in transport to the receiving health care facility. Upon admission, the receiving facility shall make the POST a part of the patient's record.
- (g) These rules shall not prevent, prohibit, or limit a physician from using a written order, other than a POST, not to resuscitate a patient in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest in accordance with accepted medical practices. This action shall have no application to any do-not-resuscitate order that is not a POST, as defined in these rules.
- (h) Valid do-not-resuscitate orders or emergency medical services do-not-resuscitate orders issued before July 1, 2004, pursuant to then-current law, shall remain valid and shall be given effect as provided in these rules.

(Rule 0720-18-.13, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-209, 68-11-224, and 68-11-1801 through 68-11-1815. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 22, 1992; effective August 6, 1992. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed April 28, 2003; effective July 12, 2003. Repeal and new rule filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Amendment filed February 7, 2007; effective April 23, 2007. Amendments filed January 3, 2012; effective April 2, 2012. Amendment filed March 27, 2015; effective June 25, 2015. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

#### 0720-18-.14 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

- (1) Emergency Electrical Power.
  - (a) All nursing homes must have one or more on-site electrical generators which are capable of providing emergency electrical power to at least all life sustaining equipment and life sustaining resources such as: ventilators, blood banks, biological refrigerators, safety switches for boilers, safety lighting for corridors and stairwells, and other essential equipment.
  - (b) Connections shall be through a switch which shall automatically transfer the circuits to the emergency power source in case of power failure. It is recognized that some equipment may not sustain automatic transfer and provisions will have to be made to manually change these items from a non-emergency powered outlet to an emergency powered outlet or other power source. All emergency power transfer switches shall be labeled as such. Switches affecting heat, ventilation, and all systems shall be labeled.
  - (c) The emergency power system shall have a minimum of twenty four (24) hours of either propane, gasoline or diesel fuel. The quantity shall be based on its expected or known connected load consumption during power interruptions. In addition, the nursing home shall have a written contract with an area fuel distributor which guarantees first priority service for re-fills during power interruptions.
  - (d) The emergency power system (generator) shall be inspected weekly and exercised under actual load and operating temperature conditions for at least thirty (30) minutes, once each month, including automatic and manual transfer of equipment. The generator shall be exercised by trained facility staff who are familiar with the systems operation. Instructions for the operation of the systems and the manual transfer of emergency power shall be maintained with the facility's disaster preparedness plan and shall be separately identified in the plan. Records shall be maintained for all weekly inspections and monthly tests and be kept on file for a minimum of three (3) years.
- (2) Physical Facility and Community Emergency Plans.
  - (a) Physical Facility (Internal Situations).
    1. Every nursing home shall have a current internal emergency plan, or plans, that provides for fires, bomb threats, severe weather, utility service failures, plus any local high risk situations such as floods, earthquakes, toxic fumes and chemical spills. The plan should consider the probability of the types of disasters which might occur, both natural and "man-made."
    2. The plan(s) must include provisions for the relocation of persons within the building and/or either partial or full building evacuation. Facilities which do not have sufficient emergency generator capacity to provide a place of refuge for residents during severe hot or cold weather emergencies shall specifically establish an emergency plan to assure a common area (dining room, hallway, or day rooms) is heated or cooled sufficiently to sustain residents during an

(Rule 0720-18-.14, continued)

emergency. This can be accomplished through several approaches including the installation of a transfer switch at the facility to which an emergency generator may be connected to operate a HVAC system for the place of refuge, or transportation of a generator to the facility and direct connection from the generator to emergency portable heating or cooling units. The plan must be coordinated with local emergency management agencies that provide emergency generators or heating or cooling units; and facilities are encouraged to enter into private agreements with local generator suppliers, rental agencies or other reliable sources of emergency power. Plans that provide for the relocation of residents to other health care facilities must have written agreements for emergency transfers. The agreements may be mutual, i.e. providing for transfers either way.

3. Copies of the plan(s), either complete or outlines, including specific emergency telephone numbers related to that type of disaster, shall be available to all staff. A copy shall be readily available at all times in the telephone operator's position or at the security center. Provisions that have security implications may be omitted from the outline versions. Familiarization information shall be included in employee orientation sessions and more detailed instructions must be included in continuing education programs. Records of orientation and education programs must be maintained for at least three (3) years.
4. The plan must provide for additional staffing, medical supplies, blood and other resources which would probably be needed.
5. Each of the following disaster preparedness plans shall be conducted annually prior to the month listed in the plan. Drills are for the purpose of educating staff, resource determination, testing personnel safety provisions and communications with other facilities and community agencies. Records which document and evaluate these drills must be maintained for at least three (3) years.
  - (i) Fire Safety Procedures Plan, to be exercised at any time during the year, shall include:
    - (I) Minor fires;
    - (II) Major fires;
    - (III) Fighting the fire;
    - (IV) Evacuation procedures;
    - (V) Staff functions by department and job assignment; and,
    - (VI) Fire drill schedules (fire drills shall be held at least quarterly on each work shift).
  - (ii) External disaster procedures plan (for tornado, flood, earthquake), to be exercised prior to March, shall include:
    - (I) Staff duties by department and job assignment; and,
    - (II) Evacuation procedures.
  - (iii) Bomb Threat Procedures Plan, to be exercised at any time during the year:

(Rule 0720-18-.14, continued)

- (I) Staff duties by department and job assignment; and,
    - (II) Search team, searching the premises.
  6. The nursing home shall develop and periodically review with all employees a prearranged plan for the orderly evacuation of all residents in case of a fire, internal disaster or other emergency. The plan of evacuation shall be posted throughout the home. Fire drills shall be held at least quarterly for each work shift for nursing home personnel in each separate patient-occupied nursing home building. There shall be a written report documenting the evaluation of each drill and the action recommended or taken for any deficiencies found. Records which document and evaluate these drills must be maintained for at least three (3) years.
- (b) Community Emergency (Mass Casualty).
1. Every nursing home, unless exempted due to its limited scope of clinical services, shall have a plan that provides for the reception and treatment, within its capabilities, of medical emergencies resulting from a disaster within its usual service area. The plan should consider the probability of the types of disasters which might occur, both natural and "man-made."
  2. The plan must provide for additional staffing, medical supplies, blood and other resources which would probably be needed. The plan must also provide for the deferral of elective admission patients and also for the early transfer or discharge of some current patients if it appears that the number of casualties will exceed available staffed beds.
  3. Copies of the plan(s), either complete or outlines, including specific emergency telephone numbers related to that type of disaster, shall be available to staff who would be assigned non-routine duties during these types of emergencies. Familiarization information shall be included in employee orientation sessions and more detailed instruction must be included in continuing education programs. Records of orientation and education must be maintained for at least three (3) years.
  4. At least one drill shall be conducted each year for the purpose of educating staff, resource determination, and communications with other facilities and community agencies. Records which document and evaluate these drills must be maintained for at least three (3) years.
  5. As soon as possible, actual community emergency situations that result in the treatment of more than twenty (20) patients, or fifteen percent (15%) of the licensed bed capacity, whichever is less, must be documented. Actual situations that had education and training value may be substituted for a drill. This includes documented actual plan activation during community emergencies, even if no patients are received.
- (c) Emergency Planning with Local Government Authorities.
1. All nursing homes shall establish and maintain communications with the county Emergency Management Agency. This includes the provision of the information and procedures that are needed for the local comprehensive emergency plan. The nursing homes shall cooperate, to the extent possible, in area disaster drills and local emergency situations.

(Rule 0720-18-.14, continued)

2. Each nursing home shall conduct both the physical facility and community emergency drills as required in these regulations, even if the local Emergency Management Agency is unable to participate.
3. A file of documents demonstrating communications and cooperation with the local agency must be maintained.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, and 68-11-209. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed February 9, 1998; effective April 25, 1998. Repeal and new rule filed January 31, 2000; effective April 15, 2000. Amendment filed September 21, 2005; effective December 5, 2005. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022. Amendments filed December 18, 2025; effective March 18, 2026.

**0720-18-.15 NURSE AIDE TRAINING AND COMPETENCY EVALUATION.** All nurse aide training programs must comply with the federal nurse aide training and competency regulations, promulgated pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, and with federal labor laws, including but not limited to minimum age requirements. Copies of these regulations may be obtained from the department.

(1) Testing service.

- (a) The Department shall provide or contract for the provision of nurse aide testing services as follows:
  1. Annual publication of testing schedules and sites.
  2. Test sites shall be located so that no individual is required to drive farther than thirty (30) miles to reach a test site.
  3. Scheduled tests shall be administered, except when no individual is scheduled to test at a particular test site.
  4. The number of individuals passing and failing shall be published following each test.
  5. The minimum passing grade for each test shall be seventy-five percent (75%) for the written or oral component. The performance demonstration portion of the test shall consist, at minimum, of five performance tasks, which shall be selected randomly for each registrant from a pool of skills evaluation tasks ranked according to degree of difficulty, with at least one task selected from each degree of difficulty. Registrants are required to pass a minimum of five (5) performance tasks.
  6. Individuals who fail any portion of the test three (3) consecutive times shall repeat training prior to taking the test again.
- (b) Applications to take the test shall be sent by the program coordinator to the appropriate testing agency postmarked no later than thirty (30) days prior to the test date. Requests for special testing needs shall be made to the testing agency at this time.
- (c) The department shall provide the board with quarterly reports on the number of individuals passing and failing each test.
- (d) A practical and written test will be developed to reflect that a trainee has acquired the minimum competency skills necessary to become a competent and qualified nurse aide. The Nurse Aide Advisory Committee, composed of twelve (12) members with at least three (3) members nominated by the Tennessee Health Care Association, will

(Rule 0720-18-.15, continued)

periodically review testing materials and set criteria for survey visits of the nurse aide programs.

- (e) The test will be developed from a pool of questions, only a portion of which is to be used for grading purposes in any one test, not to exceed one hundred (100) questions. A system must be developed which prevents the disclosure of the pool of questions and of the performance demonstration portion of the test.
- (2) Training program.
- (a) Requests for approval of a nurse aide training program shall be submitted to the department and shall include the following:
    - 1. Name, address and telephone number of the facility, institution or agency offering the program;
    - 2. The program coordinator's name, address, license number and verification of a minimum of two (2) years nursing experience, at least one of which must be in the provision of long-term care facility services;
    - 3. Statement of course objectives;
    - 4. Description of course content specifying the number of hours to be spent in the classroom and in clinical settings; and,
    - 5. In lieu of 3. and 4. above, the fact that the curriculum is previously department-approved.
  - (b) Notification of any change to any one of the above five (5) items or termination of the program must be submitted to the department within 30 days.
  - (c) Each training program shall have a pass rate on both written and performance exams of at least 70%. Annual reviews of Nurse Aide Training Programs shall include:
    - 1. Letter of commendation for exceptional pass rate as evaluated by the department;
    - 2. Letter of concern for programs having one year of test pass rates below 70%;
    - 3. Request for plan of program improvement for programs with two consecutive years of test pass rates below 70%;
    - 4. After the third year of consecutive test pass rates below seventy-percent (70%), the program shall be closed for no less than twenty-four (24) months. All students enrolled in the program shall be allowed to complete the course. Any program closed may appeal the closure to the Board pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act compiled in Title 4, Chapter 5, Part 3.
  - (d) Each program coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the following requirements are met:
    - 1. Course objectives are accomplished;
    - 2. Only persons having appropriate skills and knowledge are selected to conduct any part of the training;

(Rule 0720-18-.15, continued)

3. The provision of direct individual care to residents by a trainee is limited to appropriately supervised clinical experiences; a program instructor must be present or readily available on-site during all clinical training hours including direct patient care for the seventy-five (75) hour training program. All activities of daily living (ADL) skills, including but not limited to bathing, feeding, toileting, grooming, oral care, and perineal care, must be taught prior to student performing direct patient care;
  4. The area used for training is well-lighted, well-ventilated and provides for privacy for instruction. Such requirements are not to exceed the requirements for physical space in a nursing facility;
  5. Each trainee demonstrates competence in clinical skills and fundamental principles of resident care;
  6. Records are kept to verify the participation and performance of each trainee in each phase of the training program. The satisfactory completion of the training program by each trainee shall be attested to on each trainee's record;
  7. Each trainee is issued a certificate of completion which includes at least the name of the program, the date of issuance, the trainee's name and the signature of the program coordinator.
  8. The program coordinator shall be responsible for the completion, signing and submission to the department of all required documentation.
- (e) Student to teacher ratio must be as follows: 25:1 in classroom and 15:1 for direct patient care training.
- (3) Nurse Aide Registry. A nursing home must not use any individual working in a facility as a nurse aide for more than four (4) months unless that individual's name is included on the Nurse Aide Registry. A facility must not use on a temporary, per diem, leased or any basis other than permanent, any individual who does not meet the requirements of training and competency testing.
- (a) The Nurse Aide Registry shall include:
1. The individual's full name, including a maiden name and any other surnames used;
  2. The individual's last known home address;
  3. The individual's date of birth; and,
  4. The date that the individual passed the competency test and the expiration date of the individual's current registration.
- (b) The name of any individual who has not performed nursing or nursing related services for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months shall be removed from the Nurse Aide Registry.
- (4) Continued Competency. The facility must complete a performance review of each nurse aide employee at least once every 12 months and must provide regular in-service education based on the outcome of these reviews.

(Rule 0720-18-.15, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-206, 68-11-207, 68-11-209, 68-11-210, 68-11-211, 68-11-213, and 68-11-804 and Public Chapter 148 of 2021. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed September 4, 2003; effective November 18, 2003. Amendment filed March 27, 2015; effective June 25, 2015. Emergency rule filed August 18, 2021; effective through February 14, 2022. Emergency rule expired effective February 15, 2022, and the rule reverted to its previous status. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.

**0720-18-.16 APPENDIX I**

- (1) Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) Form.

(This space intentionally left blank)

(Rule 0720-18-.16, continued)

Tennessee Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST, sometimes called "POLST")		Patient's Last Name
This is a Physician Order Sheet based on the medical conditions and wishes of the person identified at right ("patient"). Any section not completed indicates full treatment for that section. When need occurs, <u>first</u> follow these orders, then contact physician.		First Name/Middle Initial
		Date of Birth
<b>Section A</b> Check One Box Only	<b>CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR): Patient has no pulse <u>and</u> is not breathing.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Resuscitate(CPR)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (DNR / no CPR) (Allow Natural Death)</b> When not in cardiopulmonary arrest, follow orders in <b>B, C, and D.</b>	
<b>Section B</b> Check One Box Only	<b>MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS. Patient has pulse <u>and/or</u> is breathing.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Comfort Measures Only.</b> Relieve pain and suffering through the use of any medication by any route, positioning, wound care and other measures. Use oxygen, suction and manual treatment of airway obstruction as needed for comfort. <b>Do not transfer to hospital for life-sustaining treatment. Transfer only if comfort needs cannot be met in current location. Treatment Plan: Maximize comfort through symptom management.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Limited Additional Interventions.</b> In addition to care described in Comfort Measures Only above, use medical treatment, antibiotics, IV fluids and cardiac monitoring as indicated. No intubation, advanced airway interventions, or mechanical ventilation. May consider less invasive airway support (e.g. CPAP, BiPAP). <b>Transfer</b> to hospital if indicated. Generally avoid the intensive care unit. <b>Treatment Plan: Basic medical treatments.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full Treatment.</b> In addition to care described in Comfort Measures Only and Limited Additional Interventions above, use intubation, advanced airway interventions, and mechanical ventilation as indicated. <b>Transfer</b> to hospital and/or intensive care unit if indicated. <b>Treatment Plan: Full treatment including in the intensive care unit.</b> Other Instructions: _____	
<b>Section C</b> Check One	<b>ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED NUTRITION. Oral fluids &amp; nutrition must be offered if feasible.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No artificial nutrition by tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Defined trial period of artificial nutrition by tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term artificial nutrition by tube. Other Instructions: _____	
<b>Section D</b> Must be Completed	<b>Discussed with:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Patient/Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Health care agent <input type="checkbox"/> Court-appointed guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Health care surrogate <input type="checkbox"/> Parent of minor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ (Specify)	<b>The Basis for These Orders Is:</b> (Must be completed) <input type="checkbox"/> Patient's preferences <input type="checkbox"/> Patient's best interest (patient lacks capacity or preferences unknown) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical indications <input type="checkbox"/> (Other) _____
Physician/NP/CNS/PA Name (Print)	Physician/NP/CNS/PA Signature    Date	MD/NP/CNS/PA Phone Number:
	NP/CNS/PA (Signature at Discharge)	
<b>Signature of Patient, Parent of Minor, or Guardian/Health Care Representative</b>		
Preferences have been expressed to a physician and/or health care professional. It can be reviewed and updated at any time if your preferences change. If you are unable to make your own health care decisions, the orders should reflect your preferences as best understood by your surrogate.		
Name (print)	Signature	Relationship (write "self" if patient)

(Rule 0720-18-.16, continued)

Agent/Surrogate	Relationship	Phone Number	
Health Care Professional Preparing Form	Preparer Title	Phone Number	Date Prepared

### Directions for Health Care Professionals

#### **Completing POST**

Must be completed by a health care professional based on patient preferences, patient best interest, and medical indications.

To be valid, POST must be signed by a physician or, at discharge or transfer from a hospital or long term care facility, by a nurse practitioner (NP), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), or physician assistant (PA). Verbal orders are acceptable with follow-up signature by physician in accordance with facility/community policy.

Persons with DNR in effect at time of discharge must have POST completed by health care facility prior to discharge and copy of POST provided to qualified medical emergency personnel.

Photocopies/faxes of signed POST forms are legal and valid.

#### **Using POST**

Any incomplete section of POST implies full treatment for that section.

No defibrillator (including AEDs) should be used on a person who has chosen "Do Not Attempt Resuscitation."

Oral fluids and nutrition must always be offered if medically feasible.

When comfort cannot be achieved in the current setting, the person, including someone with "Comfort Measures Only," should be transferred to a setting able to provide comfort (e.g., treatment of a hip fracture).

IV medication to enhance comfort may be appropriate for a person who has chosen "Comfort Measures Only."

Treatment of dehydration is a measure which prolongs life. A person who desires IV fluids should indicate "Limited Interventions" or "Full Treatment."

A person with capacity, or the Health Care Agent or Surrogate of a person without capacity, can request alternative treatment.

#### **Reviewing POST**

This POST should be reviewed if:

- (1) The patient is transferred from one care setting or care level to another, or
- (2) There is a substantial change in the patient's health status, or
- (3) The patient's treatment preferences change.

Draw line through sections A through D and write "VOID" in large letters if POST is replaced or becomes invalid.

(Rule 0720-18-.16, continued)

## (2) Advance Directive for Health Care Form.

**ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FOR HEALTH CARE\***  
(Tennessee)**Instructions:** Parts 1 and 2 may be used together or independently. Please mark out/void any unused part(s). Part 5, Block A or Block B must be completed for all uses.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give these advance instructions on how I want to be treated by my doctors and other health care providers when I can no longer make those treatment decisions myself.

**Part I Agent:** I want the following person to make health care decisions for me. This includes any health care decision I could have made for myself if able, except that my agent must follow my instructions below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Agent:** If the person named above is unable or unwilling to make health care decisions for me, I appoint as alternate the following person to make health care decisions for me. This includes any health care decision I could have made for myself if able, except that my agent must follow my instructions below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My agent is also my personal representative for purposes of federal and state privacy laws, including HIPAA.

**When Effective** (mark one):  I give my agent permission to make health care decisions for me at any time, even if I have capacity to make decisions for myself.  I do not give such permission (this form applies only when I no longer have capacity).

**Part 2 Indicate Your Wishes for Quality of Life:** By marking “yes” below, I have indicated conditions I would be willing to live with if given adequate comfort care and pain management. By marking “no” below, I have indicated conditions I would not be willing to live with (that to me would create an **unacceptable** quality of life).

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Permanent Unconscious Condition:</b> I become totally unaware of people or surroundings with little chance of ever waking up from the coma.
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Permanent Confusion:</b> I become unable to remember, understand, or make decisions. I do not recognize loved ones or cannot have a clear conversation with them.
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Dependent in All Activities of Daily Living:</b> I am no longer able to talk or communicate clearly or move by myself. I depend on others for feeding, bathing, dressing, and walking. Rehabilitation or any other restorative treatment will not help.
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>End-Stage Illnesses:</b> I have an illness that has reached its final stages in spite of full treatment. Examples: Widespread cancer that no longer responds to treatment; chronic and/or damaged heart and lungs, where oxygen is needed most of the time and activities are limited due to the feeling of suffocation.
Yes	No	

**Indicate Your Wishes for Treatment:** If my quality of life becomes unacceptable to me (as indicated by one or more of the conditions marked “no” above) and my condition is irreversible (that is, it will not improve), I direct that medically appropriate treatment be provided as follows. By marking “yes” below, I have indicated treatment I want. By marking “no” below, I have indicated treatment I **do not want**.

(Rule 0720-18-.16, continued)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation):</b> To make the heart beat again and restore breathing after it has stopped. Usually this involves electric shock, chest compressions, and breathing assistance.
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Life Support/Other Artificial Support:</b> Continuous use of breathing machine, IV fluids, medications, and other equipment that helps the lungs, heart, kidneys, and other organs to continue to work.
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Treatment of New Conditions:</b> Use of surgery, blood transfusions, or antibiotics that will deal with a new condition but will not help the main illness.
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tube feeding/IV fluids:</b> Use of tubes to deliver food and water to a patient's stomach or use of IV fluids into a vein, which would include artificially delivered nutrition and hydration.
Yes	No	

**Part 3** Other instructions, such as hospice care, burial arrangements, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

**Part 4 Organ donation:** Upon my death, I wish to make the following anatomical gift for purposes of transplantation, research, and/or education (mark one):

- Any organ/tissue       My entire body       Only the following organs/tissues: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 No organ/tissue donation

**SIGNATURE**

**Part 5** Your signature must **either** be witnessed by two competent adults ("Block A") **or** by a notary public ("Block B").

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Patient)

**Block A** Neither witness may be the person you appointed as your agent or alternate, and at least one of the witnesses must be someone who is not related to you or entitled to any part of your estate.

Witnesses:

1. I am a competent adult who is not named as the agent or alternate. I witnessed the patient's signature on this form. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of witness number 1

2. I am a competent adult who is not named as the agent or alternate. I am not related to the patient by blood, marriage, or adoption and I would not be entitled to any portion of the patient's estate upon his or her death under any existing will or codicil or by operation of law. I witnessed the patient's signature on this form. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of witness number 2

**Block B** You may choose to have your signature witnessed by a notary public instead of the witnesses described in Block A.

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

(Rule 0720-18-.16, continued)

I am a Notary Public in and for the State and County named above. The person who signed this instrument is personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person who signed as the "patient." The patient personally appeared before me and signed above or acknowledged the signature above as his or her own. I declare under penalty of perjury that the patient appears to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud, or undue influence.

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

**WHAT TO DO WITH THIS ADVANCE DIRECTIVE:** (1) provide a copy to your physician(s); (2) keep a copy in your personal files where it is accessible to others; (3) tell your closest relatives and friends what is in the document; and (4) provide a copy to the person(s) you named as your health care agent.

\* This form replaces the old forms for durable power of attorney for health care, living will, appointment of agent, and advance care plan, and eliminates the need for any of those documents.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-11-202, 68-11-204, 68-11-209, 68-11-224, and 68-11-1805.  
**Administrative History:** Original rule filed February 16, 2007; effective May 2, 2007. Repeal and new rule filed August 28, 2012; effective November 26, 2012. Amendment filed March 27, 2015; effective June 25, 2015. Amendments filed February 8, 2017; effective May 9, 2017. Transferred from chapter 1200-08-06 pursuant to Public Chapter 1119 of 2022 effective July 1, 2022.