

(2) In the absence of a finding by the RNHCI that the beneficiary needs a discharge plan, the beneficiary or his or her legal representative may request a discharge plan. In this case, the RNHCI must develop a discharge plan for the beneficiary.

(3) The RNHCI must arrange for the initial implementation of the beneficiary's discharge plan.

(4) If there are factors that may affect continuing care needs or the appropriateness of the discharge plan, the RNHCI must reevaluate the beneficiary's discharge plan.

(5) The RNHCI must inform the beneficiary or legal representative about the beneficiary's post-RNHCI care requirements.

(6) The discharge plan must inform the beneficiary or his or her legal representative about the freedom to choose among providers of care when a variety of providers is available that are willing to respect the discharge preferences of the beneficiary or legal representative.

(c) *Standard: Transfer or referral.* The RNHCI must transfer or refer patients in a timely manner to another facility (including a medical facility if requested by the beneficiary, or his or her legal representative) in accordance with § 403.730(b)(2).

(d) *Standard: Reassessment.* The RNHCI must reassess its discharge planning process on an ongoing basis. The reassessment must include a review of discharge plans to ensure that they are responsive to discharge needs.

§ 403.738 Condition of participation: Administration.

An RNHCI must have written policies regarding its organization, services, and administration.

(a) *Standard: Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws.* The RNHCI must operate in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and codes including, but not limited to, those pertaining to the following:

(1) Protection against discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap (45 CFR parts 80, 84, and 91).

(2) Protection of human research subjects (45 CFR part 46).

(3) Application of all safeguards to protect against the possibility of fraud and abuse (42 CFR part 455).

(b) *Standard: Governing body.* (1) The RNHCI must have a governing body, or a person designated to function as a governing body, that is legally responsible for establishing and implementing all policies regarding the RNHCI's management and operation.

(2) The governing body must appoint the administrator responsible for the management of the RNHCI.

(c) *Standard: Affiliations and disclosure.* (1) An affiliation is permissible if it is between one of the following:

(i) An individual serving as an uncompensated director, trustee, officer, or other member of the governing body of an RNHCI and a provider of medical treatment or services.

(ii) An individual who is a director, trustee, officer, employee, or staff member of an RNHCI and another individual, with whom he or she has a family relationship, who is affiliated with (or has an ownership interest in) a provider of medical treatment or services.

(iii) The RNHCI and an individual or entity furnishing goods or services as a vendor to both providers of medical treatment or services and RNHCIs.

(2) The RNHCI complies with the disclosure requirements of §§ 420.206 and 455.104 of this chapter.

(3) The RNHCI furnishes written notice, including the identity of each new individual or company, to HCFA at the time of a change, if a change occurs in any of the following:

(i) Persons with an ownership or control interest, as defined in §§ 420.201 and 455.101 of this chapter.

(ii) The officers, directors, agents, or managing employees.

(iii) The religious entity, corporation, association, or other company responsible for the management of the RNHCI.

(iv) The RNHCI's administrator or director of nonmedical nursing services.

§ 403.740 Condition of participation: Staffing.

The RNHCI must be staffed with qualified experienced personnel who are present in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the patients.

(a) *Standard: Personnel qualifications.* The RNHCI must ensure that staff who supervise or furnish services to patients are qualified to do so and that staff allowed to practice without direct supervision have specific training to furnish these services.

(b) *Standard: Education, training, and performance evaluation.* (1) The RNHCI must ensure that staff (including contractors and other individuals working under arrangement) have the necessary education and training concerning their duties so that they can furnish services competently. This education includes, but is not limited to, training related to the individual job description, performance expectations, applicable organizational policies and procedures, and safety responsibilities.

(2) Staff must demonstrate, in practice, the skills and techniques necessary to perform their duties and responsibilities.

(3) The RNHCI must evaluate the performance of staff and implement measures for improvement.

§ 403.742 Condition of participation: Physical environment.

A RNHCI must be designed, constructed, and maintained to ensure the safety of the patients, staff, and the public.

(a) *Standard: Buildings.* The physical plant and the overall environment must be maintained in a manner that ensures the safety and well-being of the patients. The RNHCI must have the following:

(1) Emergency power for emergency lights, for fire detection and alarm systems, and for fire extinguishing systems.

(2) Procedures for the proper storage and disposal of trash.

(3) Proper ventilation and temperature control and appropriate lighting levels to ensure a safe and secure environment.

(4) A written disaster plan to address loss of power, water, sewage, and other emergencies.

(5) Facilities for emergency gas and water supply.

(6) An effective pest control program.

(7) A preventive maintenance program to maintain essential mechanical, electrical, and fire protection

equipment operating in an efficient and safe manner.

(8) A working call system for patients to summon aid or assistance.

(b) *Standard: Patient rooms.* Patient rooms must be designed and equipped for adequate care, comfort, and privacy of the patient.

(1) Patient rooms must meet the following conditions:

(i) Accommodate no more than four patients.

(ii) Measure at least 80 square feet per patient in multiple patient rooms and at least 100 square feet in single patient rooms.

(iii) Have direct access to an exit corridor.

(iv) Be designed or equipped to assure full visual privacy for each patient.

(v) Have at least one window to the outside.

(vi) Have a floor at or above grade level.

(2) The RNHCI must furnish each patient with the following:

(i) A separate bed of proper size and height for the convenience of the patient.

(ii) A clean, comfortable mattress.

(iii) Bedding appropriate to the weather and climate.

(iv) Functional furniture appropriate to the patient's needs and individual closet space with clothes racks and shelves accessible to the patient.

(3) HCFA may permit variances in requirements specified in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section relating to rooms on an individual basis when the RNHCI adequately demonstrates in writing that the variances meet the following:

(i) Are in accordance with the special needs of the patients.

(ii) Will not adversely affect patients' health and safety.

§ 403.744 Condition of participation: Life safety from fire.

(a) *General.* An RNHCI must meet the following conditions:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the RNHCI must meet the new or existing health care occupancies provisions of the 1997 edition of the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 101), which is incorporated by