

Summary of Person Directed Care Environments Rules
Changes to 481 IAC 58 and 481 IAC 61

Executive Summary

On November 15, 2006, the Department adopted amendments to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 481—58, “Nursing Facilities,” permitting long-term care facilities to establish person directed care environments, which are defined as facilities or portions of facilities in which the provision of care or services promotes decision making and choices by the residents, enhances the primary caregiver’s capacity to respond to each resident’s needs, and promotes a homelike environment. The adopted amendments minimize regulatory barriers to the establishment of person directed care environments by inserting resident choice in various provisions, including those dealing with resident clothing, bathing, living arrangements, care and treatment plans, medication administration, and meal planning. Additionally, the amendments remove certain restrictions on employee duties, thus permitting employees to serve in dual capacities, such as resident care and meal preparation.

Additional changes made to Iowa Administrative Code chapter 481—61, “Minimum Physical Standards for Nursing Facilities,” strike outdated requirements dealing with the physical structure of nursing facilities, such as the arrangement of resident rooms, and requirements dealing with specific rooms. Adoption of the amendments permits long-term care facilities to construct new facilities based on such designs as the Green House concept, which divides larger facilities into smaller neighborhoods or living units. Facilities that wish to renovate, too, will be able to break up larger traditional structures into smaller, person directed care environments.

The new rules will become effective January 10, 2007.

Item-By-Item Description of Changes

The following narration provides an item-by-item description of the changes made to Iowa Administrative Code chapters 481—58, “Nursing Facilities,” and 481—61, “Minimum Physical Standards for Nursing Facilities.” Surveyors will be provided with a new set of rules once the Adopted and Filed rules are published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin.

Nursing Facilities
481 IAC 58

ITEM 1: Definitions [481—58.1]

- Makes technical changes to definitions of “ambulatory,” “non-ambulatory,” “personal care” and “responsible party.”
- Changes definition of “restraints” to conform to federal definition contained in Minimum Data Set (MDS).
- Adds new definition for “person directed care environment.”

ITEM 2: General policies [481—58.10]

- Strikes requirement to have a “pay range” included in job descriptions.
- Strikes the individual descriptions of an infection control and exposure control program and ties the program requirements to federal guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

ITEM 3: Personnel [481—58.11]

- Makes technical changes to the certified nurse aide (CNA) training program (75 hours rather than 60 hours).
- Requires facilities to request a child abuse history check from the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).

ITEM 4: Admission, transfer, and discharge [481—58.12]

- Permits facilities to exceed licensed bed capacity by allowing guest rooms for visitors.
- Adds the resident to the list of individuals to be notified prior to transfer or discharge.
- Strikes the “telephone” requirement for notifying the receiving facility prior to transfer of resident.

ITEM 5: Records [481—58.15]

- Clarifies that personnel records contain a criminal history and dependent adult abuse background check.

ITEM 6: Resident care and personal services [481—58.16]

- Adds resident choice to rules dealing with resident clothing and bathing requirements.

ITEM 7: Nursing care [481—58.18]

- Permits resident treatment decisions to be used when developing individual health care plans.
- Makes technical changes to nurse call systems to accommodate wireless systems.

ITEM 8: Required nursing services for residents [481—58.19]

- Makes corresponding technical changes.

ITEM 9: Duties of health services supervisor [481—58.20]

- Adds resident choice to the development and implementation of health care plans for nursing services.
- Adds federal definition of “where practicable.”
- Makes corresponding technical changes.

ITEM 10: Drugs, storage, and handling [481—58.21]

- Permits a resident’s medications to be stored in the bathroom.
- Makes technical changes regarding emergency medication trays.
- Requires all unused prescriptions to be returned to the supplying pharmacist upon a resident’s death.
- Permits resident input in the establishment of medication schedules.

ITEM 11: Dietary [481—58.24]

- Changes the name of the dietetic services department.
- Permits trained personnel to work in the kitchen and other service areas.
- Adds resident choice to meal planning.
- Simplifies meal planning by eliminating specific examples.
- Permits resident to be in or to eat in the kitchen area.
- Makes corresponding technical changes, re: trained personnel.

ITEM 12: Resident care [481—58.29]

- Permits physician-ordered heating pads, blankets, and sheets if allowed by fire safety codes.

ITEM 13: Housekeeping [481—58.31]

- Makes corresponding technical changes, re: employees engaged in multiple duties.

ITEM 14: Buildings, furnishing, and equipment [481—58.35]

- Makes technical changes to fan screen guards per OSHA regulations.
- Adds resident choice in bedroom arrangements and permits residents to sleep in chair.
- Allows use of low bed for fall precaution.
- Strikes requirement for mirrors in CCDI units.

ITEM 15: Animals [481—58.37]

- Permits animals in facilities with Department approval.

ITEM 16: Another business or activity in a facility [481—58.55]

- Makes changes to reflect legislative action taken in House File 786.

Minimum Physical Standards for Nursing Facilities

481 IAC 61

ITEM 1: General requirements [481—61.3]

- Adds new exemption (Exemption 6) to new construction standards for person directed care environments: “Rule does not pertain to facilities built or renovated according to plans approved by the department and designated as a person directed care environment.”
- Strikes restrictions on “other business or activity” in a nursing facility.

ITEM 2: Typical construction [481—61.4]

- Specifies that minimum width for exit corridors in new construction must be eight feet wide, and not less than four feet wide in renovations.
- Eliminates nurses’ stations from list of rooms/areas that must have acoustically treated ceilings.

ITEM 3: Nursing care unit [481—61.5]

- Strikes 60-bed limitation for nursing care units
- Provides that nursing care units contain or have access to various work areas.

- Changes name of various work rooms to work areas.
- Eliminates specific requirement for centrally located nurses' station; requires secure area for storing resident records.
- Strikes requirement for medication storage room and stipulates that medications be securely stored in locked area.
- Provides that no resident room be more than 150 feet from an exit.
- Eliminates the requirement for central bathing facilities.
- Makes corresponding technical changes.

ITEM 4: Facility support areas [481—61.6]

- Provides that facilities contain or have access to specific work areas.
- Eliminates specific requirement for examination and treatment room.
- Makes corresponding technical changes.

ITEM 5: Service areas [481—61.7]

- Provides person directed care environment exception for three-compartment sink, outside service entrance, and square footage requirements for food preparation area.
- Updates reference to 1999 Food Code.

ITEM 6: Administration and staff areas [481—61.8]

- Eliminates the requirement for specific office spaces and renames work areas.
- Provides person directed care environment exception for the size and location of office areas.

ITEM 7: Public area [481—61.9]

- Strikes the requirement that nursing facilities have entry areas with coat racks and shelves.

ITEM 8: Mechanical requirements [481—61.11]

- Makes corresponding technical changes.
- Provides a person directed care environment exception for plastic pipes.

ITEM 9: Electrical requirements [481—61.12]

- Makes corresponding technical changes.

ITEM 10: CCDI unit or facility [418—61.13]

- Makes corresponding technical changes.