

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
BUREAU OF HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING
Personal Care Homes (55 Pa.Code Chapter 2600)

Q/A - Regulatory Clarifications – September 2014

The clarifications and interpretations below will remain on the Department's web site until the information is included in the next updated Regulatory Compliance Guide (RCG).

Regulation: § 2600.107(c) – Emergency Preparedness

The home shall maintain at least a 3-day supply of nonperishable food and drinking water for residents.

Question: How much water needs to be stored per person per day, in order for the home to be compliant with the regulation?

ANSWER: Emergency response agencies advise that every home should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. Therefore, a home must have at least one gallon of water per person per day, stored at the home, unless the home has a contract in place with a water supplier who can immediately deliver the necessary amount of water needed upon request.

Regulation: § 2600.132(d) – Fire Drills

Residents shall be able to evacuate the entire building to a public thoroughfare, or to a fire-safe area designated in writing within the past year by a fire safety expert within the period of time specified in writing within the past year by a fire safety expert. For purposes of this subsection, the fire safety expert may not be a staff person of the home.

Question: If a home runs a fire drill the first week of a month and exceeds its maximum time to evacuate as identified by a fire safety expert, and then runs an additional fire drill which meets the evacuation time as identified by a fire safety expert later during the same month, is this compliant with the regulation?

ANSWER: No. Exceeding the maximum time to evacuate during a fire drill as identified by a fire safety expert is a violation.

Regulation: § 2600.190(b) – Medication Administration Training

A staff person is permitted to administer insulin injections following successful completion of a Department-approved medications administration course that includes the passing of a written performance-based competency test within the past 2 years, as well as successful completion of a Department-approved diabetes patient education program within the past 12 months.

Question: If a direct care staff person has not completed the Department-approved medications administration course, may s/he perform blood glucose testing?

ANSWER: No. A direct care staff person must complete the Department-approved medications administration course, as well as successfully complete a Department-approved diabetes education program within the past 12 months, in order to perform blood glucose testing.