

Pennsylvania's Nurse Aide Training and Testing

Pennsylvania's Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) is managed in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Departments of Human Services, Health and Education.

The federal Nursing Home Reform Act – Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987 requires the Department of Human Services (Department) to implement the following:

- (1) Specification of nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs and those competency evaluation programs that the Department approves for use by providers and that meet the requirements established by the law. See 42 U.S.C.A. § 139r(e)(1)(A).
- (2) Establishment of a registry of individuals who satisfactorily complete a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program or a nursed aide competency evaluation program approved by the Department. See 42 U.S.C.A. § 1396r(e)(2)

Pennsylvania Code in the Former Chapter 1181 Subchapter D §1181.505 discussed the implementation of the above OBRA 87 requirements which deal with the Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program established by Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Human Services and the Nurse Aide Registry system established by the Department of Health in cooperation with the Department of Human Services

The following regulations govern the Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP)

- o 42 CFR 483.150-483.158 <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/42/483.150>
- o 55 PA Code § 1181 <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter1181/chap1181toc.html>
- o Title XVIII of the Social Security Act <http://www.healthinfoworld.org/federal-law/medicare-title-xviii-social-security-act>
- o Title XIX of the Social Security Act <http://www.healthinfoworld.org/federal-law/medicaid-title-xix-social-security-act>

Nursing Facility Reimbursement for training and testing costs

MA Nursing Facilities are required to reimburse all Nurse Aides hired or offered employment within 12 months of passing the Nurse Aide Competency Evaluation Exam. Federal law prohibits these charges from being imposed on the nurse aide. Reimbursement requirements can be found in MA bulletin #1181-95-01 at the following link:

http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/bulletin_admin/d_004815.pdf

The nursing facility should include these costs on Schedule C, Line 16, of its MA-11 Cost Report after the nurse aide is reimbursed.

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/longtermcarecasemixinformation/ma11costreports/>

Student Reimbursement requirements

All Nurse Aides who complete an approved NATCEP, pass the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) exam and are hired by an MA Nursing Facility within 12 months, are eligible for full payment of all associated training and testing costs. In order to be reimbursed, you must present the following items to the Nursing Facility HR department

- o **Original** letter of reimbursement eligibility; issued by the training facility.
- o **Original** receipts of all training and testing costs.
- o work 260 hours for the Nursing Facility (eligible for reimbursement of half of the training and testing costs after 130 hours).

**Requests for duplicative letters WILL NOT be honored.

Department of Human Services Responsibilities:

- o Delegated to manage vendor contract to provide test instruments, administer testing and transmit information to the Registry.
- o Single State agency for the overall administration of the Medical Assistance program.
- o Agency responsible for the resolution and adjudication of disputes concerning the program.

- Withdrawal approval of Nursing Facility's Nurse Aide training programs based on survey activity per {42 USC § 1396r(f)(2)(B)}.
- May grant waivers to the denial of Nurse Aide Training programs with input from the Department of Health, & the Department of Education {42 CFR § 1396r(f)(C)}.
- Provide information/assistance regarding federal regulations for reimbursement from Nursing Facilities to Nurse Aides.
- Reimburses Nursing Facilities the reasonable and appropriate costs for training and testing fees occurred by individuals employed or offered employment within 12 months of completing the NATCEP or a Competency Evaluation Program (CEP).

Department of Health Responsibilities:

- Investigates and initiates legal action against Nurse Aides accused of abuse, neglected or misappropriation of resident property.
- Enters Nurse Aide annotations into registry.
- Ensures accuracy of registry.
- Determines if an applicant's questionable work history satisfies the renewal requirements.
- Fields non-routine registry questions/calls, such as annotation inquires and registry correspondence inquires.
- Distributes Nurse Aide registry list to requestors.
- Approves Change of Request form for waivers.

For information regarding the Pennsylvania Nurse Aide registry go to:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/facilities/Nurse%20Aide/Pages/Testing.aspx>

Department of Education Responsibilities:

- Review/Approve Nurse Aide Training & Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) Including at least one on-site visit every 2 years.
- Established the criteria for NATCEP curriculum including updates.
- Disseminates information about NATCEP.
- Conducts required workshops for new instructors. Host continuing education conferences for NATCEP administrative staff.
- Reviews and approves all changes to a nurse aide program including, classroom/clinical sites, instructors, curriculum content.

For more information regarding becoming an approved NATCEP, or a list of current NATCEP programs go to:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Career%20and%20Technical%20Education/Nurse%20Aide%20Training%20Program/Pages/default.aspx>

Pearson Vue: Contract vendor Responsible for Registration, Scheduling, and Administration of (NNAAP) Exam Students may contact the customer service at 1-800-852-0518

- Provides information regarding testing, procedures and concerns
- Disseminates Nurse Aide handbook
- Enters Deemed candidates into the registry upon notification from Education
- Provides/processes application for renewal and reciprocity
- Updates Nurse Aide name, address, ect. As notified
- Provides test instruments, equipment, fax scoring
- Transmits information to the Registry

To access Pearson Vue's website go to: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/>