

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to home health care services; amending
 3 s. 400.476, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
 4 administrator management; amending s. 400.487, F.S.;
 5 removing the requirement that certain home health
 6 agencies provide specified services; amending s.
 7 400.52, F.S.; revising Excellence in Home Health
 8 Program criteria requirements; providing an effective
 9 date.

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 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 13 **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**
 14 **400.476, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

15 400.476 Staffing requirements; notifications; limitations
 16 on staffing services.—

17 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—

18 (a) An administrator may manage only one home health
 19 agency, except that an administrator may manage up to five home
 20 health agencies if all five home health agencies have identical
 21 controlling interests as defined in s. 408.803 ~~and are located~~
 22 ~~within one agency geographic service area or within an~~
 23 ~~immediately contiguous county~~. If the home health agency is
 24 licensed under this chapter and is part of a retirement
 25 community that provides multiple levels of care, an employee of

26 | the retirement community may administer the home health agency
27 | and up to a maximum of four entities licensed under this chapter
28 | or chapter 429 which all have identical controlling interests as
29 | defined in s. 408.803. An administrator shall designate, in
30 | writing, for each licensed entity, a qualified alternate
31 | administrator to serve during the administrator's absence.

32 | **Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 400.487, Florida**
33 | **Statutes, is amended to read:**

34 | 400.487 Home health service agreements; physician's,
35 | physician assistant's, and advanced practice registered nurse's
36 | treatment orders; patient assessment; establishment and review
37 | of plan of care; provision of services; orders not to
38 | resuscitate.-

39 | (5) ~~When Nursing services are ordered, the home health~~
40 | ~~agency to which a patient has been admitted for care must~~
41 | ~~provide the initial admission visit, all service evaluation~~
42 | ~~visits, and the discharge visit by a direct employee. services~~
43 | provided by direct employees of and individuals ~~others~~ under
44 | contractual arrangements to a home health agency must be
45 | monitored and managed by the admitting home health agency. The
46 | admitting home health agency is fully responsible for ensuring
47 | that all care provided through its employees or contract staff
48 | is delivered in accordance with this part and applicable rules.

49 | **Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**
50 | **400.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

51 400.52 Excellence in Home Health Program.—

52 (2)(a) The agency shall adopt rules establishing criteria
53 for the program which must include, at a minimum, ~~meeting~~
54 standards that are adaptable to all types of home health
55 agencies, regardless of payor type, patient population, or
56 service designation. The criteria must include relating to:

57 1. Patient or client satisfaction, including communication
58 and willingness to recommend the home health agency.

59 2. Service excellence.

60 a. For skilled providers, outcomes related to clinical
61 improvements, such as reducing adverse events, unplanned
62 emergency care, or hospitalizations.

63 b. For nonskilled providers, contributions to daily living
64 support, personal care quality, and overall client well-being.

65 3. Workforce stability and development, including employee
66 satisfaction, retention rates, and training initiatives
67 appropriate to the home health agency's services.

68 4. Innovation in care delivery, such as implementing new
69 technologies, caregiver education programs, or tailored
70 approaches to meeting patient or client needs.

71 ~~2. Patients requiring emergency care for wound infections.~~

72 ~~3. Patients admitted or readmitted to an acute care~~
73 ~~hospital.~~

74 ~~4. Patient improvement in the activities of daily living.~~

75 ~~5. Employee satisfaction.~~

- 76 | ~~6. Quality of employee training.~~
- 77 | ~~7. Employee retention rates.~~
- 78 | ~~8. High performance under federal Medicaid electronic~~
- 79 | ~~visit verification requirements.~~

80 | **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.