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CS/HB 1353

2025 Legislature

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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 authorizing individuals under contract with a home
6 health agency to provide specified services; amending
7 s. 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

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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 of, or an
43 | individual under contract with, the home health agency. Services
44 | provided by individuals under contract with ~~others under~~
45 | ~~contractual arrangements to~~ a home health agency must be
46 | monitored and managed by the admitting home health agency. The
47 | admitting home health agency is fully responsible for ensuring
48 | that all care provided through its employees or contract staff
49 | is delivered in accordance with this part and applicable rules.

50 | Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section

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400.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.52 Excellence in Home Health Program.—

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

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

2. Service excellence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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76 ~~5. Employee satisfaction.~~
 77 ~~6. Quality of employee training.~~
 78 ~~7. Employee retention rates.~~
 79 ~~8. High performance under federal Medicaid electronic~~
 80 ~~visit verification requirements.~~
 81 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.