

January 13, 2009

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

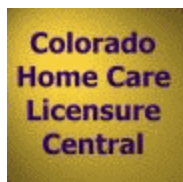
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New updates added weekly to www.hcaconline.org! Check it out!

Your Dues Working For You: Home Care Licensure Fees Proposed

HCAC "Home Care Licensure Central" Website



Read the latest news on home care licensure rule making including the latest draft (#8) PLUS the Department of Health's proposed licensure fee structure and HCAC's position on the fees. Get instructions on how to submit your important comments at HCAC's "Home Care Licensure Central." This new web page is designed to allow member access to as much information and activity as possible related to the developing home care agency licensing program. Save in your favorites!

[Click here](#) for the Member Only "Home Care Licensure Central"

Quick Links...

- [Audio Conferences: Elizabeth Hogue 2009 Legal Series](#)

This edition of the *HCAC Management Report* features the latest information on home care licensure in Colorado.

HCAC Opposes Dept. of Health's Home Care Licensure Fee Proposal

There's both good news and bad news on the home care licensure front in Colorado.

FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS...

The good news is that Draft #8 of the rules incorporates most of HCAC's recommendations in the association's attempt to

- Ensure the least amount of administrative and regulatory burden and subsequent cost to home care agencies;
- Reduce expansion of rules beyond Medicare's Conditions of Participation and prohibit duplicate survey and reporting requirements for Medicare and Medicaid certified agencies, and
- Reduce licensure-related costs to agencies.

HCAC Executive Director Ellen Caruso said, "HCAC has consistently argued these points since November of 2007 when home care licensure was first proposed by the Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)." At the time, CDPHE claimed that it wanted to provide oversight in order to protect the safety and health of home care consumers. CDPHE also claimed that the bill was drafted in response to reported harm to consumers by certain certified home health agencies that could not be addressed by the Medicare survey / certification process. "These proposed rules as recently re-written with HCAC's input pretty much accomplish those goals -- except for the cost item," Caruso said.

[HCAC members click here](#) to read Draft #8 of the rules.

- [Register Today: HCAC Annual Convention & Home Care Exhibition, May 7-8, 2009](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar: OASIS Coding Workshop, April 15 - 17, 2009 \(details to come\)](#)
- [Cahaba Resources](#)
- [Read all about HCAC's 2008 Annual Convention in Vail](#)
- [Visit Our 24/7 Virtual Trade Show](#)
- [Check Out HCAC's Jobs and Services Store](#)
- [Click here for Members Only State Legislative Bulletin Board](#)
- [HCAR Article on Colorado Healthcare Summit](#)

NOW THE BAD NEWS...

The bad news is that the Dept. of Health's proposed licensure fees and the proposed one-year cycle for licensure and two-year cycle for surveys is too costly and will put small home care agencies at risk of closure due to the increased financial burden. Caruso said, "The association's amendment to the bill that placed a limit of \$1,500 on fees for the first two years will certainly help Medicare and Medicaid certified agencies, but we want to make sure that the cost will not be prohibitive in year three and beyond."

[HCAC members click here](#) to read the proposed fee structure and HCAC's recommendations regarding fees.

Please send comments to:
ecaruso@assnoffice.com.

Member comments will be collated and presented to CDPHE and the Board of Health during formal testimony.

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