RCS Survey and Inspection Reimplementation

April 8 and 9, 2021
Housekeeping

Attendees will be in listen only mode

Self-mute your lines when not speaking

Educational webinar

Participants from long-term care and regulatory staff

Type questions into the question window. *Tell us where you are from (e.g., AFH, NH)*

No confidential information presented or discussed
Introductions

Mike Anbesse, Director RCS
Bett Schlemmer, Office Chief for Field Operations
Loida Baniqued, Office Chief for Headquarter Operations
Shirlee Steiner, Regional Administrator for Region 1
Kathy Gold, Regional Administrator for Region 2
Bennetta Shoop, Regional Administrator for Region 3
Amy Abbott, Office Chief Policy, Training, QA, and Behavioral Health
Information About Today’s Presentation

• This is an informational webinar for long-term care and regulatory staff. The webinar is not intended for the media.
• For ease of discussion we will use the term survey to represent any survey, inspection, and certification process
• Due to the large number of participants, all attendees will be muted.
• Please submit your comments or questions in the Question Pane.
  • We will attempt to answer as many of your questions as possible at the end of the presentation.
Purpose

• To provide updates regarding the reimplementation of the survey and inspection process in certified and licensed LTC programs;

• To provide information regarding steps RCS staff is taking to practice infection prevention strategies

• To answer questions providers may have regarding the inspection and survey process

Image by moritz320 from Pixabay
Providers Participating in this Information Sharing and Impacted by the Reimplementation Process

- Nursing Homes (NH);
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID);
- Adult Family Homes (AFH);
- Assisted Living Facilities (ALF);
- Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF);
- Supported Living Agencies (SL);
- Group Homes, Group Training Homes; and
- State-Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA)
Plans for Reimplementation

• Plan to start gradually:
  • Will complete a small number of homes/facilities each month

• Scheduling will take into account many factors:
  • Length of time since last inspection
  • Facilities/homes with Infection control concerns
  • Facilities/homes with complaint concerns
  • Facilities/homes with no COVID outbreaks
Survey Process

• RCS may conduct Modified Survey process:
  • Modified is defined as changes in the survey process that vary from the standard process
  • Modified is based on circumstances and available resources and may result in less time onsite
  • Determination when to use Modified Inspection process is based on facility or home history and COVID-19 status
Survey Process

• For the modified process:
  • Onsite Activity may be limited
  • Observations are always done onsite
  • Interviews and record reviews may be done offsite
  • Group meetings will occur in ALF, ESF, and NH however these meetings may be modified
Survey Process

• The surveys are unannounced
• The focused infection control tools will continue to be used during the survey process
• While onsite, RCS will inform facilities/homes when RCS staff leave the home, whether for a break, lunch, or at the end of the day.
• While this may be a modified process, RCS will still conduct a full survey and the time taken may vary.
RCS staff

• RCS staff are considered essential health care workers and do need to be allowed in the facility
• For resident and staff safety, RCS staff:
  • Bring their own PPE to the survey
  • Follow all CDC and DOH infection control guidelines
  • Are offered the vaccine
  • Are offered the opportunity to test weekly
  • Are screened before work each day
Steps Facilities/Homes will take

- Screen RCS staff according to facility policy
- Allow RCS staff in the building as essential health care workers
- Provide access to a conference room or work area sufficient to maintain social distancing and place to don PPE
- Facilitate interview of residents/clients while assuring privacy is maintained
- Coordinate with RCS staff to maintain social distancing
Steps Facilities/Homes Will Take, Con’t

• Facilitate observation of resident/client care
• Facilitate access to electronic record or hard copies
• Work with RCS staff in providing requested records timely through emails or scanning
• Provide disposal for used PPE
Excel tool of waived/suspended requirements with separate sheets for:

- Proclamations
- Emergency Rules
- Workforce
- CMS Waivers
- Management bulletins
- F and K Tags

This Excel tool can be found on each provider page
Each sheet contains:

• Period of time the requirements were waived / suspended

• Statutory or rule citation waived

• Description of the waived requirement

• Setting(s) impacted

• Each sheet will be searchable by citation and setting
To search the sheets:

• Click on the column header (one of the letters across the top of the sheet) to highlight the column

• On the “Home” menu, select and then select ‘Sort A to Z’

• From the pop-up box, be sure ‘Expand the selection’ is marked and click ‘sort’

• This will reorder each row of information according to the sort criteria you selected
Final Notes on Survey Reimplementation

• The State Fire Marshal will be resuming unannounced inspections in ALFs and NHs as well
• All components of the survey or inspection process will be completed
• Any findings will be compared with waived and suspended rules before any final citation determination is made.
• If you have any concerns with communication, please discuss with the inspector or team lead. If this does not resolve the issue, please contact the below in the order listed:
  • Field Manager
  • Regional Administrator
  • Office Chief
Questions
Contact us at:

RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov

Note: do not use this mailbox for urgent or emergency situations.