



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600*

March 30, 2016

**ALTSA: NH #2016-007**  
**FOUR MONTH RULE EXTENSION REQUEST**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrators and Interested Parties:

As you may be aware, the Nursing Assistant Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) is converting the state examination paper application process to an online registration system. As part of the conversion process, no testing will be scheduled between March 30, 2016 and May 2, 2016.

In preparation for this required "blackout period" for Nursing Assistant Training and Competency Evaluation testing, our department submitted a request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) asking that the four month rule in 42 CFR 483.75(2) be extended or waived to allow Nursing Assistants Registered (NARs) who are employed by nursing homes to continue working as NARs while waiting to take the state competency exam.

Unfortunately, CMS is unwilling to waive the four month rule to allow NARs affected by the "blackout period" to continue working in nursing homes as NARs pending completion of the state examination. However, an individual working as an NAR in a nursing home who exceeds four months of employment as a NAR during the "blackout period" can continue to work for the nursing home in capacities that do not include nursing-related duties such as environmental aides, hospitality aides, housekeeping, and kitchen staff.

Thank you for your patience while we waited for a final decision. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Worthington the NATCEP Manager at [worthsg@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:worthsg@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

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