



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

March 8, 2024

AL TSA: NH #2024-010
RCW 74.42.360, WAC 388-97-1090, AND CH. 388-112B WAC, GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH WORKER (GBHW) QUALIFICATIONS, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS; AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF PREVIOUSLY
UNREPORTED HOURS FOR STATE Q2, Q3, AND/OR Q4, 2023 INTO THE 3.4 DIRECT CARE
HOURS PER RESIDENT DAY (HPRD) CALCULATION

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Post pandemic reimplementation of nursing home 3.4 HPRD minimum staffing, reporting, and enforcement requirements revealed the need for additional clarification of GBHW qualification, supervision, and training requirements for inclusion of a portion of eligible hours in the state 3.4 HPRD quarterly calculation.

1. [RCW 74.42.360](#): Hours worked by geriatric behavioral health workers may be recognized as direct care hours for purposes of the minimum staffing requirements only up to a portion of the total hours equal to the proportion of resident days of clients with a behavioral health condition identified at that facility on the most recent semiannual minimum data set.
2. GBHW hours can only be included in the state 3.4 HPRD calculation if the identified GBHW meets the following eligibility requirements:
 - a) Have a bachelor's degree in social work, behavioral health, or related area; or
 - b) Have a master's degree in social work, behavioral health, or related area; or
 - c) Have at least three years' experience providing care for individuals with chronic mental health issues, dementia, or intellectual and developmental disabilities in a long-term care or behavioral health care setting; or
 - d) Have successfully completed a facility-based health curriculum approved by the department. (See [WAC Chapter 388-112B: Geriatric behavioral health worker training & curriculum requirements.](#))
3. Any geriatric behavioral health worker holding less than a master's degree in social work must be directly supervised by an employee who has a master's degree in social work or a registered nurse.
4. To include a portion of GBHW hours in the 3.4 HPRD calculation, the identified provider must be paid directly by the nursing home, either as a member of the staff, or by contract. Provider hours billed directly to Medicare, Medicaid, and/or private insurance are not eligible for inclusion.

Nursing Homes will:

Accurately complete all sections of the [Geriatric Behavioral Health Sheet](#) and submit to nfrates@dshs.wa.gov, prior to deadline.

ALTSA Provider Letter: GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKER (GBHW) QUALIFICATIONS, SUPERVISION, AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS; AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED HOURS FOR STATE Q2, Q3, AND/OR Q4, 2023 INTO THE 3.4 DIRECT CARE HOURS PER RESIDENT DAY (HPRD) CALCULATION.

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For Timeframe:	Deadline for submission of eligible GBHW hours for inclusion in quarterly 3.4 HPRD Calculation:
January 1 – March 31	May 30
April 1 – June 30	August 29
July 1 – September 30	November 29
October 1 – December 31	March 1

To further support NH return to compliance with state 3.4 HPRD reporting requirements, RCS will temporarily accept written requests for retroactive inclusion of the eligible portion of previously unreported GBHW hours for inclusion for state Q2, 2023 (April 1 - June 31, 2023), Q3, 2023 (July 1 – September 30, 2023), and/or Q4, 2023 (October 1 – December 31, 2023).

As of March 2, 2024, NHs will submit written requests, with all required documentation, to: RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov. The policy unit will verify hours and submit a written request to the Office of Rates Management with eligible hours for retroactive inclusion in the 3.4 HPRD calculation for state Q2, Q3, and/or Q4 2023.

To verify eligibility and the portion of GBHW hours submitted for retroactive inclusion in the state 3.4 HPRD calculation, all written requests must include all of the following:

- The state quarter for which retroactive inclusion of hours is being requested; and
- Explanation of circumstances resulting in GBHW hours not being submitted by deadline; and
- Complete and attach the “*GBHW Information and Attestation*” document attached below; and



GBHW Information
and Attestation

- Attach all GBHW payroll data for the identified quarter,
- If GBHW hours were completed by agency and/or contract staff, attach related contract and payment documents for quarter under review.

This interim process will remain in effect through state Q4, 2023 (Oct 1 – Dec 31, 2023).

Beginning state Q1, 2024 (January 1 – March 31, 2024) additional hours, not submitted by deadline, will no longer be accepted for retroactive inclusion in the state 3.4 HPRD calculation.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

OR

If you have any questions, please contact Jodi Lamoreaux, Policy Program Manager, at (360)464-0487 or Jodi.Lamoreaux1@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “*Transforming Lives*”