



**From:** [Forrest Collier](#)  
**To:** [DH, LTCRegs](#)  
**Subject:** [External] PA DOH Proposed Nursing Facility Regulations  
**Date:** Sunday, August 29, 2021 2:31:34 PM

---

***ATTENTION:** This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to [CWOPA\\_SPAM@pa.gov](mailto:CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov).*

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the DOH Proposed Nursing Facility Regulations published in PA Bulletin July 31, 2021.

I wish to commend the Department's proposed increase in the staffing requirement from 2.7 to 4.1 Nursing Hours Per Resident Day. This increase would support a common goal of increased quality of care for nursing facility residents. Nevertheless, however laudable this requirement might be, without appropriate financial support and additional definition of roles and a reasonable implementation process it seems to fall dismally short of achievement.

The proposed increase in NHPRDs does not appear to be supported by any increase in Medicaid rates for Medicaid funded residents. In fact, no increases have occurred in the past seven years. Approval of these regulations without an appropriate increase in Medicaid rates will inevitably result in additional increases in private pay rates beyond their cost of care to offset these shortfalls. As private rate payers exhaust their resources at an accelerated rate, they will more quickly need to rely on Medicaid to cover their cost of care, exacerbating an already untenable situation.

As stated, the proposed regulations do not seem to recognize care services provided by non-RN/LPN staff members, such as various therapists and life-enrichment staff---services that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services does recognize. These services could be incorporated in the 4.1 total while preserving a specific baseline for RN./LPN services.

Finally, an implementation strategy and time frame seems to be missing from the proposed regulations at this point. This is especially important in an emerging (?) post-pandemic era in which significant shortages continue to exist.

Thank you for considering these comments on the PA DOH Proposed Nursing Facility Regulations

Forrest Collier  
608 Foxglove Place  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows