

Suggested Revisions to the Final Proposed Rule 14P048

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16 Definitions and Terms

Companion Aide: a Licensed Nurse Aide (LNA) with specialized training in person-centered dementia care who shall provide person-centered individualized care to specific residents with dementia and other cognitive impairments.

17.1 Companion Aide Pilot Project

The Companion Aide Pilot Project will provide a per diem rate adjustment to selected facilities to develop additional knowledge and experience in the area of person-centered dementia care through the use of Companion Aides. Companion Aides will be Licensed Nurse Aides with specialized training in person-centered dementia care who shall provide person-centered individualized care to specific residents with dementia and other cognitive impairments.

The work of the Companion Aides funded by this pilot program must comply with the job description detailed in the Companion Aide application. The selected nursing facilities may have the Companion Aide work any shift.

There must be a net increase in Licensed Nurses Aides by the number of companion aides per selected facility. Companion aide's role is to provide person-centered individualized care to specific residents, however in the following limited situations they may be assigned to other duties:

- a) other aides are unable to report to work due to a natural disaster, like a flood or snow storm
- b) another resident needs short term emergency assistance.

The facility must track and report each month to the licensing agency and the Division of Rate Setting the number of hours companion aides work in their roles as companion aides and the number of hours they are assigned to other duties.

Selected facilities must post the names of Companion Aides on duty each shift.

The pilot project will be for 2.5 years beginning January 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2017.

17.1 (d)

(d) End of Adjustment and Special Nursing Rebase Provisions

(1) The adjustments in this Section will be terminated as of July 1, 2017 when Nursing Care costs are rebased to base year 2015. Selected facilities will only be allowed to include the costs of the Companion Aides in their base year costs if the licensing agency and the Division of Rate Setting both determine that they have complied with these rules.

(2) For facilities with years ending earlier than December 31, the Division will annualize the cost of the Companion Aides so that a full year of these costs will be included in the selected facilities' 2015 base year costs.

(3) The Companion Aide costs at the five selected facilities will be exempt from the cap on nursing costs in the July 1, 2017 rebase. In rebases after that time, the extant cap on Nursing Care Costs will apply.

(e) Ongoing Reporting Requirements

The selected facilities shall complete an annual Companion Aide Pilot Project Outcome Report. This report will be sent to the providers with the Companion Aide application so nursing facility staff will understand the data reporting requirement when they apply for the pilot. These reports will be due by November 10, 2015 and November 10, 2016. The Division may end the Companion Aide rate adjustment for a facility that does not comply with the ongoing reporting requirements.

(f) Pursuant to its duty to protect residents of facilities and ensure that nursing homes help each resident attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental and psycho-social well being, the licensing agency may initiate enforcement action against a selected facility pursuant to Section 18 of The Licensing and Operating Rules for Nursing Homes if the selected facility fails to comply with Section 17.1 of these rules.