

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

November 2023

Message From the ACHP Program Manager: Improving the MCAR

Dear Providers,

Prior to the pandemic, a provider advisory council submitted suggestions, which have been valuable in informing our review of the rules so far. As time has passed we want to offer the opportunity to submit additional feedback.

The MCAR provides important regulations to ensure that residents are cared for in a homelike atmosphere that is safe and secure. The MCAR protects residents' health, safety, and welfare.

As you know, the ACHP's regulations must "meet or exceed" state regulations. That means legally there are some regulations we can't change. However, if rules are unclear or can be improved, then we want to make those changes. Our rules should be easy to understand, concise and reasonable.

At the upcoming listening sessions, we will not be announcing any new rules, as nothing has been finalized. Time for presenting at the MCAR Listening Sessions is limited based on the number of participants who wish to present a suggestion. You may bring written feedback to hand in at the sessions if you choose.

After the listening sessions conclude, and the rule revisions and updates are closer to finalized, there will be a public review period before any rules are finalized.

Steven Esser

Program Manager

Upcoming MCAR Listening Sessions

The ACHP is revising the [Multnomah County Administrative Rules](https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/rules-and-rule-interpretation) (MCAR) multco.us/adult-care-home-information/rules-and-rule-interpretation. Although the ACHP must meet or exceed the state's rules, there is still room to improve the MCAR.

Rather than giving a presentation, the ACHP team will be listening to you, and your suggestions, changes, additions, subtractions and clarifications to the current MCAR.

If you plan to comment about a specific rule, please come prepared with the current rule number. This will help us track suggested changes and facilitate discussion in the meeting.

MCAR Listening Sessions Details

Wednesday, November 15
9 a.m. – noon

Monday, December 4
1 – 4 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Sharron Kelley Room
600 NE 8th St., Gresham, OR 97030

The ACHP has been in the process of reviewing and planning MCAR updates since 2020. The ACHP facilitated a rule review committee made up of operators and resident managers that met from June 2020 through January 2021.

The last update to the MCAR went into effect in 2017.

FDA Warning Issued for 27 Eye Drops

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning related to lubricant eye drops. These products may lead to a bacterial infection that can cause partial vision loss or blindness. The warning is associated with approximately 27 products.

The FDA's recommendation is to discontinue use of these eye drops and dispose of them immediately. Patients who have used these eye drops should be monitored for signs of an eye infection. If an eye infection is developing, seek medical care immediately.

Be sure to contact the resident's doctor to get a new eye drop approved, obtain an updated physician's order, and update the MAR.

Time to Renew CPR? Remember, You Must Take In-Person Course

If you or a staff member are getting your CPR and First Aid Certification, you must take an in-person course. This is required for first time certification and renewals. **Courses that are online only are not allowed** (MCAR 023-070-630).

If a portion of the course is provided online, there must be an in-person skills test conducted by a qualified instructor.

Approved in-person courses include:

- American Heart Association (aka Heartsaver)
- American Red Cross
- American Safety and Health Institute
- Medic First Aid

If you want to take a CPR and first aid course from a company that is not on this list, you should call the ACHP and check to make sure it will be accepted.

[Eye Drop Retailers and Product Information](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-warns-consumers-not-purchase-or-use-certain-eye-drops-several-major-brands-due-risk-eye#eyedrops)

[fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-warns-consumers-not-purchase-or-use-certain-eye-drops-several-major-brands-due-risk-eye#eyedrops](https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-warns-consumers-not-purchase-or-use-certain-eye-drops-several-major-brands-due-risk-eye#eyedrops)

Just Ask: Where Should My Home Office be Located?

Answer: It's best to arrange your home office in a space where you can do your record keeping in private to protect residents' confidential information. Common shared spaces are not the best places for your office.

Operators are required to ensure protected health information is not used or disclosed improperly. In order to protect residents' confidentiality, the rules require all resident records be stored in a locked location (MCAR 023-090-215 and 023-090-210).

It is important that HIPAA-protected health information is not visible to other residents or visitors in the home. Remember not to leave faxes sitting on the fax machine where anyone could view them. This can be a challenge if the home office is located in the living room or other shared space.

Although there is no rule against it, doing your record keeping in the living room, dining room or kitchen distracts from a home-like environment and does not offer protection to residents' confidentiality. Your licenser may ask for you to relocate your records to a place that allows for privacy and protection of residents' confidential information.

Having a separate and quiet space may also help you focus while updating your home records or taking those highly private phone calls with healthcare professionals.

Training and Support

*Most sessions offered via webinar.
To register call 503-988-3000 or email
advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us.
Specify the training name and date.*

In-Person Provider Meeting

Topic: Care Planning for APD & MHA Providers
Date: Wednesday, November 22
Time: 1 – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$30 (3 CEUs)
Location: Sharron Kelly Room 600 NE 8th St.,
Gresham, OR 97030

Orientation Required for operator, resident manager and shift manager applicants.

Date: Tuesday, December 5
Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Sign-on 8:50 a.m.)
Cost: \$55

First year required trainings for operators, resident managers and shift managers:

Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt

Dates: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 24, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. (Sign-on 12:20 p.m.)
Cost: \$30
Registration is full until Friday, December 15

Honoring Diversity

Date: Thursday, November 9
Time: 9 a.m. – noon (Sign-on 8:50 a.m.)
Cost: \$30

Record Keeping Part A, Screening and Care Planning

Required for APD and MHA operators, resident managers and shift managers.
Date: Tuesday, November 14
Time: 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. (Sign-on 12:20 p.m.)
Cost: \$30

Emergency Preparedness Planning

Date: Tuesday, November 21
Time: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Sign-on 8:50 a.m.)
Cost: \$30

Native American Heritage Month

November is a time to honor indigenous communities throughout the U.S.

Multnomah County is named after the Multnomah tribe, which lived on the eastern tip of what is now Sauvie Island. The county area includes traditional village sites of the Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River.

Want to learn more about Native American life and culture? Find a list of documentaries on [PBS](https://www.pbs.org/articles/celebrate-native-american-and-alaska-native-heritage-month), [pbs.org/articles/celebrate-native-american-and-alaska-native-heritage-month](https://www.pbs.org/articles/celebrate-native-american-and-alaska-native-heritage-month)

Learn about traditional indigenous food plants at [Edible Native American Plants of the Willamette Valley](https://www.multcolib.org/events/edible-native-american-plants-willamette-valley/129346) [multcolib.org/events/edible-native-american-plants-willamette-valley/129346](https://www.multcolib.org/events/edible-native-american-plants-willamette-valley/129346)

Upcoming Holiday Office Closures

- Friday, November 10, Veterans Day observed
- Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving Day
- Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

Qualifying Tests Canceled Due to Holidays

There will be no qualifying test held on Tuesday, November 21 or December 26.

COVID-19 Information for Providers:
[multco.us/adult-care-home-information/covid-19-information-adult-care-home-providers](https://www.multco.us/adult-care-home-information/covid-19-information-adult-care-home-providers)