

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

September 2021

Letter from the ACHP Interim Manager

Dear Providers,

The ACHP has been busy this summer catching up with care homes and it has been nice to connect with operators and staff in person. As we have been conducting inspections in the homes, one area of challenge we are seeing is **Resident Screening**.

Please do not rush your screening process. A thorough screening prior to admission is a critical element for a successful placement in your home. The screening is your opportunity to make certain that you understand the resident's needs and ensure that you are able to meet those needs.

If the resident is moving from another placement, ask for current care plans from that facility or home. Find out why that placement isn't working out. If it's a hospital, discover the reason for the hospitalization. Ask for the hospital notes on their care and health history. If it was a long stay at a hospital, that can be an indicator of high needs and challenges to care. Use the screening process to get as much information as possible so that your decision will be clear and well supported.

Once you sign indicating that you can meet a resident's needs, the burden to do so is on you and it is a great responsibility. It is much better to slow down and screen thoroughly, than to rush for the move-in and find needs you can't meet after a resident is admitted to your home.

Please take the time to review the [MCAR](#) on:
Screening: 023-080-200
Admission to Care Home 023-80-300
Person Centered Care Plans 023-080-400

Steven Esser, Interim ACHP Program Manager

Just Ask

Question: Is an Adult Care Home a "Health Care Setting," and are ACH staff "Health Care Workers"?

Answer: Yes, ACHs are considered health care settings because they provide direct client services in a residential care setting. This includes personal care activities that involve very close contact with an individual, such as toileting or bathing. All staff employed or volunteering within ACHs are considered health care workers. All COVID-19 masking and vaccination requirements related to these designations apply to adult care homes.

Question: What is meant by MCAR 023-090-455's requirement that business records include, "Verification that all caregivers are not listed on either of the Exclusion Lists?"

Answer: "Exclusion Lists" are federal databases that keep track of individuals and businesses that are excluded from participation in (receiving any wages that are funded through) Federal healthcare programs like Medicaid and Medicare. ACHs are prohibited from hiring staff found on these lists; and proof that the lists were checked for all staff must be kept within the ACH business record. Individuals and businesses land on the lists when they have been found guilty of committing certain violations (e.g. fraud, other healthcare program felony offenses; felony convictions related to controlled substances; convictions for patient neglect or abuse; etc.)

The two lists are: [List of Excluded Individuals/Entities \(LEIE\)](#), managed by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at Health and Human Services (HHS) found here: <https://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov>, and the [System for Award Management \(SAM\) Exclusion List](#) managed by the U.S. General Services Administration found here: <https://sam.gov/content/exclusions>.

COVID-19 Updates

With the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has recently issued updated Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) addressing COVID vaccinations within health care settings ([OAR 333-019-1010](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=280246): <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=280246>). Additionally, on August 19, Governor Brown announced updated vaccination requirements for health care workers.

What we know so far:

- Health care workers (including ACH operators and employees) must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no later than October 18, 2021, or six weeks after full FDA approval, whichever is later. Effective October 18, weekly testing will no longer be allowed as an alternative to vaccination.
- All providers are required to report to the ACHP anytime a resident, staff, or household member has shown symptoms (fever or felt feverish, chills, difficulty breathing, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea), is pending COVID-19 test results, or has a positive test result for COVID-19.
- Employers must maintain documentation of employee vaccination in a confidential medical file, separate from other employment records. Self-employed providers must maintain their own documentation. These records must be maintained for at least 2 years and must be provided to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) upon request.
- Masks must be worn at all times by caregivers and non-caregiving employees who do not live in the home.
- 6-foot distance is required for outdoor visits. Masks are required for outdoor visitations that cannot meet the distance requirement.
- A visitation log is required for contact tracing.
- Effective 9/30/21, OHA can fine business owners/employers up to \$500/day/violation.

Residential Fire Sprinklers Required for New Adult Care Homes

Providers may have heard of a new state requirement regarding fire sprinklers. As of April 2021, **new** adult care homes must have an automatic residential fire sprinkler system (or take other safety measures approved by the local building official) to protect the residents in their care.

When is a sprinkler system required?

This requirement applies only to new construction or the new use of an existing home. If a home has not already been licensed for use as an ACH, the home must comply with this new requirement.

Some examples

- Constructing a new home that will be used as an Adult Care Home
- Opening an ACH in a home not previously licensed as a care home
- Relocating an ACH to a different home not previously licensed as a care home

When does this requirement NOT apply?

This change only applies to new construction, or a new use of an existing building, and is not retroactive. Any existing operations or operations that have temporarily stopped providing services and that were previously licensed do not have to comply with the new code requirements. If the home is licensed, or had been previously licensed, for use as an ACH, the home does not have to comply with this new requirement.

Some examples

- Currently operating an ACH in a licensed home
- Opening or reopening an ACH in a home previously licensed as a care home
- Changing licenses in an approved home

For more information: [Technical bulletin from the State Building Code Division](https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/Documents/care-facilities-sprinkler-info.pdf)
<https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/Documents/care-facilities-sprinkler-info.pdf>

Training, Testing, and Events

ACHP training continues to be offered online for the time being. Register by calling 503-988-3000 or by emailing advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us. Please note that registration is required in order to attend.

Orientation - Required for all Operator and Resident Manager applicants.

Dates: Wednesday, 9/15/21

Times: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (Sign-on 8:50 am)

Cost: \$55

Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt

Dates: Wednesday 9/8/21 and 9/22/21

Times: 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (Sign-on 1:20 pm)

Cost: \$30 for Operators & Resident Managers

Other training

[Challenging Behaviors: Effective Approaches to Common Behaviors in the Non-Dementia Adult Population](#)

Oregon Care Partners offers this free, instructor-led webinar designed to help caregivers manage challenging behaviors (anger, yelling, physical aggression) that can be common among older adults. An expert will guide you through understanding the causes of challenging behaviors, develop verbal and non-verbal communication strategies, and teach methods to appropriately intervene.

Date: Tuesday, 9/21/21

Times: 9:00 am - noon

Location: Webinar

Register:

<https://oregoncarepartners.com/app/#/class-details/2172?search=Challenging%20Behaviors&type=WEBINAR>

Testing

The ACHP is continuing to provide 1:1 testing for Operator, Resident manager, or Caregiver applicants on an as needed basis. Contact the ACHP at (503) 988-3000 to request individual testing.

What do I Need to Know About Portable Backup Generators?

ACHs that provide ventilator care are required by MCAR to maintain backup power generators. However, with power outages becoming more frequent, many providers are looking at acquiring generators for their homes. Here are a few tips when considering purchasing and using a backup generator:

- Make sure you have adequate outdoor space away from windows, doors, and vents to place and run the generator. Never put a generator inside the home, garage, porch or breezeway. Assure that indoor carbon monoxide detectors are functioning to detect any carbon monoxide that might make its way indoors.
- Consider the size of the fuel tank and how long it will power the ACH home. Choose a generator with adequate wattage and enough outlets to power the home's electricity needs. Find a wattage chart link in the article linked below.
- Consider noise levels when running the generator, you may need a model with a muffler.
- Make a plan for safe fuel storage
- Consider an approved tent or generator cover to keep the generator dry while it is stored.

Find more detailed info here:

<https://www.oregonlive.com/shopping-deals/2021/07/need-a-backup-generator-for-your-house-best-portable-home-power-options-plus-expert-tips-for-safe-use-and-more.html>

Resident Placement Survey

The ACHP is conducting a [brief survey](#) to gather information from providers about the "blast" that is sent regarding potential residents, and about the screening and placement processes. Look for a link to the survey in your email or click the link below and share your thoughts. Thank you for your participation!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfk3hLq7j-yKiMrmrC2vbCEUed7cXiRkerM1LoLv32qwrHK0g/viewform?usp=sf_link



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