



FACT SHEET ON HOME HEALTH AIDES

There is no state licensing or certification of home health aides in Florida. The State of Florida does not have a state-administered test of home health aides. There is no state law that requires the licensing or certification of home health aides in Florida. Home health aides who are licensed or certified in another state cannot transfer their license or certificate to Florida.

Home Health Aides Who Were Licensed or Certified In Another State

Home health aides who are licensed or certified in another state must provide a copy of the course work and a copy of their transcripts or training documentation from the school where they received the training to the employing home health agency or nurse registry.

To Work as Home Health Aide at a Home Health Agency

To work for a Medicare or Medicaid home health agency, a home health aide must complete at least 75 hours of training and/or successfully complete a competency evaluation given by the home health agency.

To work in a licensed-only agency the home health aide must complete at least 40 hours of training or successfully complete a competency test given by the home health agency. Some home health agencies require additional training above these minimum hours.

Some home health agencies may hire certified nursing assistants to work as home health aides. (See information below on certified nursing assistants.)

Individuals who have graduated from an accredited school of nursing and are waiting to take their state exam for licensure in Florida can work as a home health aide. Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who can show proof they are licensed in another state or in Florida can work as a home health aide..

Please note: these are the *minimum* requirements. A home health agency may have its own additional requirements beyond the minimum for home health aides.

To Work as Home Health Aide at a Nurse Registry

To work as a home health aide at a nurse registry, a home health aide must provide documentation of successful completion of at least 40 hours of home health aide training by:

- a public vocational technical school or
- a private career education school licensed by the Florida Department of Education or
- a home health agency, if the home health aide was formerly employed by that home health agency.

How to get training as a home health aide

Some local public vocational technical schools and local private career education schools offer the home health aide course. To find a course in your area, call your local public vocational technical school or local private career education schools to ask if they offer a home health aide course. All nonpublic postsecondary schools and colleges must be licensed by the Florida Department of Education, Commission for Independent Education.

Here is a link to the Florida Department of Education's web site that has the listing of adult education public schools:

<http://data.fldoe.org/workforce/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=7>

Here is a link to the Commission for Independent Education's licensed nonpublic postsecondary schools and colleges: <https://web02.fldoe.org/CIE/SearchSchools/SchoolSearch.aspx>

Some home health agencies provide training for persons that they employ as home health aides. Some home health agencies may offer a competency test to persons they employ instead of the training. Check the classified advertising section of your local newspaper to find out which home health agencies have job openings and training for home health aides. A home health agency cannot train persons that it will not employ unless operates a school licensed by the Florida Department of Education.

A nurse registry cannot train home health aides unless it operates a school licensed by the Florida Department of Education.

In-Service Training

All home health aides employed by home health agencies and nurse registries must complete an HIV/AIDS training course. They also are required to obtain and maintain a current certificate in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Home health aides employed by Medicare and Medicaid home health agencies are required to have a total of 12 hours of in-service training during each 12-month period (this can be a calendar year or based on the date of hire). The HIV/AIDS training and CPR training may be counted toward meeting the 12 hours of in-service training.

If You Misplace Your Home Health Aide Certificate

There is no central state registry for home health aides in the state of Florida. If you misplaced your home health aide certificate, you will need to contact the school in which you received your certificate in order to receive a replacement.

Questions Concerning Certified Nursing Assistants

An individual with a Florida certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificate can be employed by a home health agency as a home health aide.

CNAs are certified by a different state agency, the Department of Health, Board of Nursing, Council on Certified Nursing Assistants. Passage of the state CNA test is required for certification. There are also in-service requirements for keeping the certification. For

information on these requirements, please go to their web site:
<http://www.floridasnursing.gov/licensing> or call (850) 488-0595.

Other Questions? Call the AHCA Laboratory and In-Home Services Unit (850) 412-4500

March 2018