



Memorandum

Subject: Home Care Aide Job Description

Date: Revised on 01/22/03

Job Summary

“Home care aide” means an individual providing home care services. “Home care services” means non-medical services and assistance provided to ill, disabled, infirm or vulnerable clients that enables them to remain in their residences.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.127 RCW. 02-18-026, § 246-335-015, filed 8/23/02, effective 10/1/02.]

Job Requirements

- (1) Home care services include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Personal care such as assistance with dressing, feeding and personal hygiene to facilitate self-care;
 - (b) Homemaker assistance with household tasks, such as housekeeping, shopping, meal planning and preparation, and transportation;
 - (c) Respite care assistance and support provided to the family;
 - (d) Or other non-medical tasks.
- (2) “Non-medical tasks” means those tasks, which do not require clinical judgment and which can be performed by unlicensed individuals. These tasks are ordinarily performed by the patient or client, which if not for the patient or client's cognitive or physical limitation(s), would be completed independently by the patient, client, or family. These non-medical tasks include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) “Ambulation” which means assisting the patient or client to move around. Ambulation includes supervising or guiding the patient or client when walking alone or with the help of a mechanical device such as a walker, assisting with difficult parts of walking such as climbing stairs, supervising or guiding the patient or client if the patient or client is able to propel a wheelchair, pushing of the wheelchair, and providing constant or standby physical assistance to the patient or client if totally unable to walk alone or with a mechanical device.

- (b) “Bathing” which means assisting the patient or client to wash. Bathing includes supervising or guiding the patient or client to bathe, assisting the patient or client with difficult tasks such as getting in or out of the tub or washing the back, and completely bathing the patient or client if totally unable to wash self.
- (c) “Body care” which means skin care including the application of over the counter ointments or lotions. “Body care” excludes foot care for patients or clients who are diabetic or have poor circulation.
- (d) “Feeding” which means assistance with eating. Feeding includes supervising or guiding the patient or client when able to feed self, assisting with difficult tasks such as cutting food or buttering bread, and orally feeding the patient or client when unable to feed self.
- (e) “Medication assistance level 2” which means assistance with medications as defined in the board of pharmacy rules, chapter 246-888 WAC, and consistent with nursing assistant rules under chapter 18.88A RCW.
- (f) “Positioning” which means assisting the patient or client to assume a desired position, and with turning and exercises to prevent complications, such as contractures and pressure sores. Range of motion ordered as part of a physical therapy treatment is not included, unless such activity is authorized in agency policies and procedures and is supervised by a licensed physical therapist in a home health or hospice agency or hospice care center.
- (g) “Protective supervision” which means being available to provide safety guidance protection to the patient or client who cannot be left alone due to impaired judgment.
- (h) “Toileting” which means helping the patient or client to and from the bathroom, assisting with bedpan routines, using incontinent briefs, cleaning the patient or client after elimination, and assisting the patient or client on and off the toilet.
- (i) “Transfer” which means assistance with getting in and out of a bed or wheelchair or on and off the toilet or in and out of the bathtub. Transfer includes supervising or guiding the patient or client when able to transfer, providing steadying, and helping the patient or client when the patient or client assists in own transfer. This does not include transfers when the patient or client is unable to assist in their own transfer or needs assistive devices unless specific training or skills verification has occurred consistent with agency policies and procedures.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.127 RCW. 02-18-026, § 246-335-015, filed 8/23/02, effective 10/1/02.]

RCW 70.127.150 Durable power of attorney - Prohibition for licensees, contractees, or employees.
 No licensee, contractee, or employee may hold a durable power of attorney on behalf of any individual who is receiving care from the licensee.

[2000 c 175 13; 1988 c 245 16.]

RCW 70.127.180 Surveys and in-home visits -- Notice of violations -- Enforcement action.

The department of health may conduct in-home visits to observe patient/client care and services.

[2000 c 175 15; 1988 c 245 19.]

Salary Report

(This data is as of January 20003 from the website: www.salary.com)

A typical Certified Nursing Assistant working in Washington -- Tacoma earns a median base salary of \$21,367, according to our analysis of data reported by corporate HR departments. Half of the people in this job earn between \$17,658 and \$25,711.

A typical Certified Nursing Assistant working in Washington -- Seattle earns a median base salary of \$20,635, according to our analysis of data reported by corporate HR departments. Half of the people in this job earn between \$17,054 and \$24,830.

Print Name

Signature

Date