

can support the patient's spiritual needs to the best of its ability.

(iv) Advise the patient and family of this service.

§ 418.66 Condition of participation: Nursing services—Waiver of requirement that substantially all nursing services be routinely provided directly by a hospice.

(a) CMS may waive the requirement in § 418.64(b) that a hospice provide nursing services directly, if the hospice is located in a non-urbanized area. The location of a hospice that operates in several areas is considered to be the location of its central office. The hospice must provide evidence to CMS that it has made a good faith effort to hire a sufficient number of nurses to provide services. CMS may waive the requirement that nursing services be furnished by employees based on the following criteria:

(1) The location of the hospice's central office is in a non-urbanized area as determined by the Bureau of the Census.

(2) There is evidence that a hospice was operational on or before January 1, 1983 including the following:

(i) Proof that the organization was established to provide hospice services on or before January 1, 1983.

(ii) Evidence that hospice-type services were furnished to patients on or before January 1, 1983.

(iii) Evidence that hospice care was a discrete activity rather than an aspect of another type of provider's patient care program on or before January 1, 1983.

(3) By virtue of the following evidence that a hospice made a good faith effort to hire nurses:

(i) Copies of advertisements in local newspapers that demonstrate recruitment efforts.

(ii) Job descriptions for nurse employees.

(iii) Evidence that salary and benefits are competitive for the area.

(iv) Evidence of any other recruiting activities (for example, recruiting efforts at health fairs and contacts with nurses at other providers in the area).

(b) Any waiver request is deemed to be granted unless it is denied within 60 days after it is received.

(c) Waivers will remain effective for 1 year at a time from the date of the request.

(d) If a hospice wishes to receive a 1-year extension, it must submit a request to CMS before the expiration of the waiver period, and certify that the conditions under which it originally requested the initial waiver have not changed since the initial waiver was granted.

NON-CORE SERVICES

§ 418.70 Condition of participation: Furnishing of non-core services.

A hospice must ensure that the services described in § 418.72 through § 418.78 are provided directly by the hospice or under arrangements made by the hospice as specified in § 418.100. These services must be provided in a manner consistent with current standards of practice.

§ 418.72 Condition of participation: Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology.

Physical therapy services, occupational therapy services, and speech-language pathology services must be available, and when provided, offered in a manner consistent with accepted standards of practice.

§ 418.74 Waiver of requirement—Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling.

(a) A hospice located in a non-urbanized area may submit a written request for a waiver of the requirement for providing physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling services. The hospice may seek a waiver of the requirement that it make physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling services (as needed) available on a 24-hour basis. The hospice may also seek a waiver of the requirement that it provide dietary counseling directly. The hospice must provide evidence that it has made a good faith effort to meet the requirements for these services before it seeks a waiver. CMS may approve a waiver application on the basis of the following criteria:

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(1) The hospice is located in a non-urbanized area as determined by the Bureau of the Census.

(2) The hospice provides evidence that it had made a good faith effort to make available physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling services on a 24-hour basis and/or to hire a dietary counselor to furnish services directly. This evidence must include the following:

(i) Copies of advertisements in local newspapers that demonstrate recruitment efforts.

(ii) Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counselor job descriptions.

(iii) Evidence that salary and benefits are competitive for the area.

(iv) Evidence of any other recruiting activities (for example, recruiting efforts at health fairs and contact discussions with physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietary counseling service providers in the area).

(b) Any waiver request is deemed to be granted unless it is denied within 60 days after it is received.

(c) An initial waiver will remain effective for 1 year at a time from the date of the request.

(d) If a hospice wishes to receive a 1-year extension, it must submit a request to CMS before the expiration of the waiver period and certify that conditions under which it originally requested the waiver have not changed since the initial waiver was granted.

§418.76 Condition of participation: Hospice aide and homemaker services.

All hospice aide services must be provided by individuals who meet the personnel requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section. Homemaker services must be provided by individuals who meet the personnel requirements specified in paragraph (j) of this section.

(a) *Standard: Hospice aide qualifications.* (1) A qualified hospice aide is a person who has successfully completed one of the following:

(i) A training program and competency evaluation as specified in para-

graphs (b) and (c) of this section respectively.

(ii) A competency evaluation program that meets the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section.

(iii) A nurse aide training and competency evaluation program approved by the State as meeting the requirements of §483.151 through §483.154 of this chapter, and is currently listed in good standing on the State nurse aide registry.

(iv) A State licensure program that meets the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) A hospice aide is not considered to have completed a program, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, if, since the individual's most recent completion of the program(s), there has been a continuous period of 24 consecutive months during which none of the services furnished by the individual as described in §409.40 of this chapter were for compensation. If there has been a 24-month lapse in furnishing services, the individual must complete another program, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, before providing services.

(b) *Standard: Content and duration of hospice aide classroom and supervised practical training.* (1) Hospice aide training must include classroom and supervised practical training in a practicum laboratory or other setting in which the trainee demonstrates knowledge while performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse, who is under the supervision of a registered nurse. Classroom and supervised practical training combined must total at least 75 hours.

(2) A minimum of 16 hours of classroom training must precede a minimum of 16 hours of supervised practical training as part of the 75 hours.

(3) A hospice aide training program must address each of the following subject areas:

(i) Communication skills, including the ability to read, write, and verbally report clinical information to patients, care givers, and other hospice staff.

(ii) Observation, reporting, and documentation of patient status and the care or service furnished.