§ 51.150  Physician services.

A physician must personally approve in writing a recommendation that an individual be admitted to a facility. Each resident must remain under the care of a physician.

(a) Physician supervision. The facility management must ensure that—

(1) The medical care of each resident is supervised by a primary care physician;

(2) Each resident’s medical record lists the name of the resident’s primary physician, and

(3) Another physician supervises the medical care of residents when their primary physician is unavailable.

(b) Physician visits. The physician must—

(1) Review the resident’s total program of care, including medications and treatments, at each visit required by paragraph (c) of this section;

(2) Write, sign, and date progress notes at each visit; and

(3) Sign and date all orders.

(c) Frequency of physician visits. (1) The resident must be seen by the primary physician at least once every 30 days for the first 90 days after admission, and at least once every 60 days thereafter, or more frequently based on the condition of the resident.

(2) A physician visit is considered timely if it occurs not later than 10 days after the date the visit was required.

(3) Except as provided in paragraphs (c)(4) of this section, all required physician visits must be made by the physician personally.

(4) At the option of the physician, required visits in the facility after the initial visit may alternate between personal visits by the physician and visits by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section.

(d) Availability of physicians for emergency care. The facility management must provide or arrange for the provision of physician services 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, in case of an emergency.

(e) Physician delegation of tasks. (1) Except as specified in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, a primary physician may delegate tasks to:

(i) a certified physician assistant or a certified nurse practitioner, or

(ii) a clinical nurse specialist who—
(A) Is acting within the scope of practice as defined by State law; and
(B) Is under the supervision of the physician.

**NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (e):** An individual with experience in long term care is preferred.

(2) The primary physician may not delegate a task when the regulations specify that the primary physician must perform it personally, or when the delegation is prohibited under State law or by the facility’s own policies.


(The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements in this section under control number 2900–0160)

§ 51.160 Specialized rehabilitative services.

(a) **Provision of services.** If specialized rehabilitative services such as but not limited to physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and mental health services for mental illness are required in the resident’s comprehensive plan of care, facility management must—

(1) Provide the required services; or
(2) Obtain the required services from an outside resource, in accordance with §51.210(h) of this part, from a provider of specialized rehabilitative services.

(b) Specialized rehabilitative services must be provided under the written order of a physician by qualified personnel.


(The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements in this section under control number 2900–0160)

§ 51.180 Pharmacy services.

(a) **Procedures.** The facility management must provide pharmaceutical services (including procedures that assure the accurate acquiring, receiving, dispensing, and administering of all drugs and biologicals) to meet the needs of each resident.

(b) **Service consultation.** The facility management must employ or obtain the services of a pharmacist licensed in a State in which the facility is located or a VA pharmacist under VA contract who—

(1) Provides consultation on all aspects of the provision of pharmacy services in the facility;
(2) Establishes a system of records of receipt and disposition of all controlled drugs in sufficient detail to enable an accurate reconciliation; and
(3) Determines that drug records are in order and that an account of all controlled drugs is maintained and periodically reconciled.

(c) **Drug regimen review.** (1) The drug regimen of each resident must be reviewed at least once a month by a licensed pharmacist.

(2) The pharmacist must report any irregularities to the primary physician and the director of nursing, and these reports must be acted upon.

(d) **Labeling of drugs and biologicals.** Drugs and biologicals used in the facility management must be labeled in accordance with currently accepted professional principles, and include the appropriate accessory and cautionary instructions, and the expiration date when applicable.