



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue

Delmar, New York 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.  
*Commissioner*

Dennis P. Whalen  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

August 17, 2005

DAL #: DQS 05-09

Re: Nurse Aide Training Program Approvals

Dear Administrator:

The New York State Department of Health is revising the current nursing home nurse aide training program content curriculum. The current training program content for nursing home nurse aides was developed in 1987 with minor modifications during 1990. The content is being revised to ensure that the curriculum reflects current professional practice. The new curriculum provides the skills and knowledge required to ensure nursing home residents are treated with dignity and receive safe and effective care and services.

A workgroup comprised of stakeholders including Registered Professional Nurses directly involved in the training and/or supervision of new nursing home nurse aides, worked with the Department to develop the curriculum for the training program. The curriculum is based upon the federal nursing home nurse aide training program content, to standardize the training provided to nursing home nurse aides across the state. The curriculum contains the knowledge and skills necessary for entry level nursing home nurse aides to provide residents with the expected level of care and services.

The Department believes the new NATP will be better for providers, nurse aide trainees, and most importantly residents. One of the main components of the new NATP is a mandated curriculum for the state-approved 100-hour nurse aide training program. The mandated curriculum ensures that each New York State trained nurse aide has received instruction and has demonstrated knowledge and skill in the areas necessary to protect residents and foster resident independence and dignity. The curriculum incorporates core values that underlie all aspects of care, regardless of the care setting. The core values place the emphasis on the resident during the provision of care. Nursing homes and training programs may add content and lessons to the state-mandated curriculum as desired or necessary due to resident needs and facility practice.

It is anticipated that the revised NATP will be implemented statewide in January 2006. Until the new program is implemented, the Department must temporarily suspend the

review and approval of new applications for Nursing Home Nurse Aide Training Program approvals utilizing the current requirements. Applications for new nurse aide training programs submitted by nursing homes and other sponsors providing such training free of charge to the nurse aide trainees will continue to be accepted through COB September 15, 2005. The Department will complete its review of program applications submitted through COB September 15, 2005 as quickly as possible. However, it must be noted that **all** NATPs will be required to make whatever changes are needed to their existing NATP to bring it into compliance with the new program requirements by July 1, 2006. Nursing homes that wish to withdraw an open application may do so with a written letter or e-mail (address at end of letter) from the nursing home's Administrator of Record.

We will begin accepting applications for new Nursing Home Nurse Aide Training Program applications on January 15, 2006. A new Dear Administrator Letter will be issued to all nursing homes and approved NATPs announcing the new NATP requirements. Upon approval, the new NATP requirements, including the curriculum will be posted on the DOH website and available for downloading. Existing state-approved NATPs will have until July 1, 2006 to make any necessary changes to their current NATP curriculum and requirements. The Department will be working with its contractor, Thomson Prometric, to ensure the nurse aide certification examination is reflective of the new curriculum. The revised CNAs certification examination will be effective July 1, 2006.

The Department of Health and the State Education Department, will require all NATPs, regardless of sponsor, to at least meet the new Department nurse aide training program requirements, including the 100-hour mandated curriculum. All approved Nursing Home Nurse Aide Training Programs must incorporate Units, Topics and Lessons, with the stated objectives, measurable performance criteria, and minimum times required for each lesson, that will be contained in the required curriculum into their NATP. A NATP may exceed these requirements by additional training time, units, topics or lessons as determined by the administrator or program director.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Diane Lenzner Cohen at 518/408-1297 or [PROFCRED@health.state.ny.us](mailto:PROFCRED@health.state.ny.us). Thank you for your cooperation and continuing efforts to ensure a workforce that provides timely, appropriate and effective services to nursing home residents in New York State.

Sincerely,



Keith W. Servis, Director  
Division of Quality and Surveillance  
for Nursing Homes and ICFs/MR