



March 22, 2017

TO: The Honorable Sara Gelser
Senate Committee on Human Services

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SUBJECT: SB 223 – Training Requirements for In-Home Caregivers

Chair Gelser and members of the committee; I am Dr. Dana Selover, Manager of the Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement Section for the Center for Health Protection, Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The Division understands that amendments have been drafted that would replace the current introduced bill and would require the Home Care Commission to establish qualifications and training requirements for home care workers that meet the licensing standards of in-home care agencies. This testimony is being provided to share information about current training requirements for in-home care agency staff.

The Health Facility Licensure and Certification program within the Public Health Division is responsible for the oversight and licensure of in-home care agencies operating in Oregon. These agencies are licensed in accordance with the types of services provided to their clients and the classification level is distinguished by whether staff assist with medication assistance, medication administration or nursing services:

- **LIMITED:** Provides personal care services including medication reminding;
- **BASIC:** Provides personal care services including medication reminding and medication assistance;
- **INTERMEDIATE:** Provides personal care services including medication reminding, medication assistance and medication administration;
- **COMPREHENSIVE:** Provides personal care services including medication reminding, medication assistance, medication administration and nursing services.

Training requirements necessary for staff to provide personal care to a client are established in Oregon Administrative Rule chapter 333, division 536.

OAR 333-536-0070 specifies that an agency must ensure that care is provided by qualified and trained staff, that the training is based on the services provided, and includes, as applicable, the following topics:

- Caregiver duties and responsibilities;
- Recognizing and responding to medical emergencies;
- Dealing with adverse behaviors;
- Nutrition and hydration; including special diets and meal preparation and service;
- Appropriate and safe techniques in personal care tasks;
- Methods and techniques to prevent skin breakdown, contractures and falls;
- Handwashing and infection control;
- Body mechanics;
- Maintenance of a clean and safe environment;
- Fire safety and non-medical emergency procedures;
- Assisting clients with self-directed or client representative directed non-injectable medication administration; and
- Medication training for staff who provide medication assistance and medication administration.

Additionally, caregivers are required to receive 6 hours of continuing education annually with an additional one hour of medication administration education if providing this service. Caregivers that have a current health-care related license are exempt from these training requirements.

The Division is neutral on the proposed amendment; however, it is important to note that services offered by home care workers registered by the Home Care Commission may not align with the services provided by in-home care agency staff depending the agency classification. Training requirements would need to be carefully considered based on the types of services provided.