

Pharmacy Home Health Services

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Overview

- Description
- Type of Patients
- Services Offered
- Applicable Laws
- Issues



Description:

In general:

- A **Home Health Agency (HHA)** is any public or private organization that provides or arranges for skilled nursing services for individuals in their home, whether it's a temporary or permanent residence. 22 CCR § 74600
- BPC 4027(c) defines “**Licensed Home Health Agency**” to mean a private or public organization licensed by the State Department of Public Health pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1725) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code, as further defined in Section 1727 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - A licensed HHA may have their own pharmacy, a contract pharmacy or have arrangements with a pharmacy to provide pharmaceutical services.
- A pharmacy providing home health services is:
 - Required to be licensed by the board as a pharmacy.
 - If compounding sterile injectable drugs must also be licensed as a sterile compounding pharmacy.
 - **A pharmacy is not required to be licensed as a HHA unless they employ and utilize their own nurses to provide home care.**



Description: (continue)

- **A pharmacy providing home health service...**
 - Specializes in treating patients in their home or at a residential facility with pharmaceutical products and services that are complex.
 - More cost effective to continue treatment in the home versus in acute care setting.
 - Commonly involves: infusion therapy, administration of injectable drugs, parenteral nutrition and enteral nutrition.
 - Involves coordination of care with nursing, the prescriber, and/or insurance.
 - Provides training to patients, family or caregivers.
 - Requires reviewing, dispensing, and delivering of drug therapies, patient monitoring, assessing proper storage of medications, providing consultation and educating on the proper disposal of unused medication/supplies.
 - Provides the pharmaceutical product, supplies and equipment (infusion or enteral pump).
 - May partner with a HHA or Hospice.



Type of Patients

Patient Referrals:

- Hospital Discharge Planners
- Physicians
- Third-Party Payors (health insurance plans with or without contracts)
- Licensed Home Health Agencies
- Licensed Hospice Agencies
- List of Accredited Pharmacies
 - The Joint Commission (TJC)
 - Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP)
 - Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board (PCAB)
 - Healthcare Quality Association on Accreditation (HQAA)
 - Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC)
 - Medicare



Services Offered

Type of therapies:

- Infusion therapies (intravenous, subcutaneous, intrathecal, epidural)
 - IV Antibiotics
 - Parenteral Nutrition
 - Chemotherapy
 - Treating pain
- Respiratory therapies
- Hospice medications (pain and comfort medications)
- Medicinal gases and supplies
- Enteral products and supplies
- Ostomy and urological supplies
- Wound care products



Services Offered (continue)

Duties of intake coordinator:

- ▶ Prior to accepting patient:
 - ▶ Obtain patient and billing information, confirms contract pricing or negotiate cost for treatment,
 - ▶ confirms type of service(s) to be provided and duration of care.
 - ▶ confirms nursing agency to provide patient and home assessment, nursing care, education and training; if a licensed HHA with a pharmacy will verify number of visits per day, per week or per duration of care.
 - ▶ Obtain contact information from referring entity, general patient information, copy of discharge orders if applicable,



Services Offered (continue)

Duties of the pharmacist:

- Obtains prescription for treatment, patient history, list of medications, allergies, diagnoses, emergency contact information;
- Determines type of access port and supplies required for administration and maintenance of injection site or access port;
- Heparin flush order if applicable and/or type of flushing of access line;
- Contact patient and nursing agencies to coordinate delivery of medications and supplies;
- Provide introduction packet:
 - How to contact the pharmacist 24-hours/7-days per week,
 - Patient's rights and responsibilities notice
 - Consent for treatment,
 - HIPPA information
- Patient consultation on treatment, side effects, supplies, storage, delivery process - CCR 1707.2.
- Over see the compounding and dispensing of medication(s),
- Routine follow up with patient or caregiver
- Maintain medical records and progress notes.



Issues

In addition to complying with pharmacy and compounding laws:

- Following up with patients on number of doses remaining to **monitor compliance** and when to send additional doses.
- **Scheduling deliveries** of medications with patients.
- **Coordinating** deliveries with nursing visits.
- Maintaining **patient confidentiality** when delivering medications.
- **Pharmacist may carry and furnish** to home patient dangerous drugs and parenteral therapy that's prescribed - CCR 1752.
 - Pharmacist conduct initial home visit to assess home and storage of medications.
- **Furnishing a portable container** (emergency kit) to a licensed HHA or a licensed hospice and contents; policies and procedures required - CCR 1753.
- Licensed pharmacy's obligation to **cease use of portable container** if licensed HHA fails to comply with CCR 1753. CCR 1754



Issues (continue)

- Obtaining Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions for hospice patients.
 - BPC 4071 and 4072 - is not considered an agent of the prescriber for Schedule II controlled substances
 - BPC 688 - E-RX
 - HSC 11164 - Controlled Substance Rx
 - HSC 11159.2 - Terminally Ill
 - 21 CFR 1306.13 - Terminally Ill
 - HSC 11167 - Emergency order
 - HSC 11167.5 - SNF/ICF/Hospice
- If the pharmacy is unable to obtain a prescription with the prescriber's signature, the pharmacy must follow HSC 11167 for an emergency prescription by contacting the prescriber for a verbal order and request the prescriber to provide a written prescription on a controlled substance prescription form that meets the requirements of HSC 11162.1.



Issues (continue)

- ▶ **Partial filling of Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions for hospice patients.**
 - BPC 4052.10 - When requested by patient or prescriber
 - CCR 1745(b) - For “terminally ill” patients or patients in a SNF
 - CCR 1745(d) - When the pharmacy is unable to fill the full quantity
- ▶ **Pharmacist to Pharmacy Technician ratio** - If the pharmacy is also a licensed home health agency the ratio is 1 RPH : 2 TCH
- ▶ **Tracking, storage, and cleaning** infusion and enteral pumps and poles
 - CCR 1714(c)



Thank You

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