

House Bill No. 1003

An act relating to nursing homes; amending s. 400.141, F.S.; prescribing duties of nursing homes with respect to influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccinations; providing rulemaking authority; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (14), (15), and (16) are added to section 400.141, Florida Statutes, to read:

400.141 Administration and management of nursing home facilities.— Every licensed facility shall comply with all applicable standards and rules of the agency and shall:

(14) Before November 30 of each year, subject to the availability of an adequate supply of the necessary vaccine, provide for immunizations against influenza viruses to all its consenting residents in accordance with the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, subject to exemptions for medical contraindications and religious or personal beliefs. Subject to these exemptions, any consenting person who becomes a resident of the facility after November 30 but before March 31 of the following year must be immunized within 5 working days after becoming a resident. Immunization shall not be provided to any resident who provides documentation that he or she has been immunized as required by this subsection. This subsection does not prohibit a resident from receiving the immunization from his or her personal physician if he or she so chooses. A resident who chooses to receive the immunization from his or her personal physician shall provide proof of immunization to the facility. The agency may adopt and enforce any rules necessary to comply with or implement this subsection.

(15) Assess all residents for eligibility for pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccination (PPV) and vaccinate residents when indicated within 60 days after the effective date of this act in accordance with the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, subject to exemptions for medical contraindications and religious or personal beliefs. Residents admitted after the effective date of this act shall be assessed within 5 working days of admission and, when indicated, vaccinated within 60 days in accordance with the recommendations of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, subject to exemptions for medical contradictions and religious or personal beliefs. Immunization shall not be provided to any resident who provides documentation that he or she has been immunized as required by this subsection. This subsection does not prohibit a resident from receiving the immunization from his or her personal physician if he or she so chooses. A resident who chooses to receive the immunization from his or her personal physician shall provide proof of immunization to the facility. The agency may adopt and enforce any rules necessary to comply with or implement this subsection.

(16) Annually encourage and promote to its employees the benefits associated with immunizations against influenza viruses in accordance with the recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency may adopt and enforce any rules necessary to comply with or implement this subsection.

Facilities that have been awarded a Gold Seal under the program established in s. 400.235 may develop a plan to provide certified nursing assistant training as prescribed by federal regulations and state rules and may apply to the agency for approval of its program.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 11, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 11, 2001.