

## CHAPTER 2025-127

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1353

An act relating to home health care services; amending s. 400.476, F.S.; revising provisions relating to administrator management; amending s. 400.487, F.S.; authorizing individuals under contract with a home health agency to provide specified services; amending s. 400.52, F.S.; revising Excellence in Home Health Program criteria requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 400.476, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.476 Staffing requirements; notifications; limitations on staffing services.—

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—

(a) An administrator may manage only one home health agency, except that an administrator may manage up to five home health agencies if all five home health agencies have identical controlling interests as defined in s. 408.803 ~~and are located within one agency geographic service area or within an immediately contiguous county.~~ If the home health agency is licensed under this chapter and is part of a retirement community that provides multiple levels of care, an employee of the retirement community may administer the home health agency and up to a maximum of four entities licensed under this chapter or chapter 429 which all have identical controlling interests as defined in s. 408.803. An administrator shall designate, in writing, for each licensed entity, a qualified alternate administrator to serve during the administrator's absence.

Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 400.487, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.487 Home health service agreements; physician's, physician assistant's, and advanced practice registered nurse's treatment orders; patient assessment; establishment and review of plan of care; provision of services; orders not to resuscitate.—

(5) When nursing services are ordered, the home health agency to which a patient has been admitted for care must provide the initial admission visit, all service evaluation visits, and the discharge visit by a direct employee of or an individual under contract with, the home health agency. Services provided by individuals under contract with ~~others under contractual arrangements~~ to a home health agency must be monitored and managed by the admitting home health agency. The admitting home health agency is

fully responsible for ensuring that all care provided through its employees or contract staff is delivered in accordance with this part and applicable rules.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 400.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.52 Excellence in Home Health Program.—

(2)(a) The agency shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the program which must include, at a minimum, meeting standards that are adaptable to all types of home health agencies, regardless of payor type, patient population, or service designation. The criteria must include relating to:

1. Patient or client satisfaction, including communication and willingness to recommend the home health agency.

2. Service excellence.

a. For skilled providers, outcomes related to clinical improvements, such as reducing adverse events, unplanned emergency care, or hospitalizations.

b. For nonskilled providers, contributions to daily living support, personal care quality, and overall client well-being.

3. Workforce stability and development, including employee satisfaction, retention rates, and training initiatives appropriate to the home health agency’s services.

4. Innovation in care delivery, such as implementing new technologies, caregiver education programs, or tailored approaches to meeting patient or client needs.

~~2. Patients requiring emergency care for wound infections.~~

~~3. Patients admitted or readmitted to an acute care hospital.~~

~~4. Patient improvement in the activities of daily living.~~

~~5. Employee satisfaction.~~

~~6. Quality of employee training.~~

~~7. Employee retention rates.~~

~~8. High performance under federal Medicaid electronic visit verification requirements.~~

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2025.