



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 13, 2007

AFL 07-13

**TO: SKILLED NURSING FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR
DP/SNF ADMINISTRATOR**

SUBJECT: DIALYSIS SERVICES IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide information about state requirements for the delivery of dialysis services in long term care facilities. It has been brought to our attention that many skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), Distinct Part Skilled Nursing Facilities (DP/SNFs), and subacute units under contract with the Medi-Cal Program may not be in compliance with California laws regarding the delivery of dialysis services in long term care facilities.

Provision of dialysis services in a long term care (LTC) setting is not currently authorized as a SNF service. These services may not be provided within the LTC facility by facility staff, hospital-based staff, or by staff under contract with a licensed dialysis clinic.

The Health and Safety Code at section 1794.01 et seq. does contain statutes that address home dialysis agencies as a licensed category but no license has been issued using this authority, and these statutes are now out of date. Until these statutes are amended to allow for the safe delivery of dialysis services in a home setting (which could include a SNF), dialysis services may not be provided in a LTC facility.

Facilities that are currently allowing dialysis to be performed in their facility must make alternate arrangements for the provision of this service for residents. As the Department becomes aware of these services being provided in a LTC facility, a cease and desist notice may be issued by Licensing and Certification to the facility.

We certainly understand the disruption to residents and facilities that this notice will cause, and it is hoped that a solution will be found to allow the safe delivery of dialysis services in a person's home or LTC facility. Until that time, however, this practice is not authorized and must cease.

AFL 07-13
Page 2
June 13, 2007

For questions regarding this letter, please contact, Scott Vivona, Chief Field Operations Branch, at (916) 440-7377.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Kathleen Billingsley, R.N.

Kathleen Billingsley, R.N.
Deputy Director