19-13-D8T. CHRONIC AND CONVALESCENT NURSING HOMES AND REST HOMES WITH NURSING SUPERVISION

...(u) Emergency preparedness plan.

The facility shall have a written emergency preparedness plan which shall include procedures to be followed in case of medical emergencies, or in the event all or part of the building becomes uninhabitable because of a natural or other disaster. The plan shall be submitted to the local fire marshal or, if none, the state fire marshal for comment prior to its adoption.

The plan shall specify the following procedures:

Identification and notification of appropriate persons;
Instructions as to locations and use of emergency equipment and alarm systems;
Tasks and responsibilities assigned to all personnel;
Evacuation routes;
Procedures for relocation and/or evacuation of patients;
Transfer of casualties;
Transfer of records;
Care and feeding of patients;
Handling of drugs and biologicals.

A copy of the plan shall be maintained on each nursing unit and service area. Copies of those sections of the plan relating to subdivisions (2) (B) and (2) (D) above shall be conspicuously posted.

Drills testing the effectiveness of the plan shall be conducted on each shift at least four times per year. A written record of each drill, including the date, hour, description of drill, and signatures of participating staff and the person in charge shall be maintained by the facility.

All personnel shall receive training in emergency preparedness as part of their employment orientation. Staff shall be required to read and acknowledge by signature understanding of the emergency preparedness plan as part of the orientation. The content and participants of the training orientation shall be documented in writing.
[Additional Material pursuant to a 2007 Statute that required distribution of potassium iodide in day care centers, nursing homes, and child care facilities in counties in range of a particular nuclear power plant.]

(6) Emergency Distribution of Potassium Iodide. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, during a public health emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to section 2 of public act 03-236 and, if authorized by the Commissioner of Public Health via the emergency alert system or other communication system, a chronic and convalescent nursing home and rest home with nursing supervision licensed under chapter 368v of the Connecticut General Statutes that is located within a 10 mile radius of the Millstone PowerStation in Waterford, Connecticut, shall be permitted to distribute and administer potassium-iodide tablets to facility staff or visitors present at the chronic and convalescent nursing home, or rest home with nursing supervision during such emergency, provided that:

(1) Prior written consent has been obtained by the chronic and convalescent nursing home, or rest home with nursing supervision for such provision. Written consent forms shall be provided by the chronic and convalescent nursing home, or rest home with nursing supervision to each resident, or resident’s conservator, guardian, or legal representative currently admitted and to each employee currently employed promptly upon the effective date of this subdivision. Thereafter, written consent forms shall be provided by the chronic and convalescent nursing home, or rest home with nursing supervision to each resident, or resident's conservator, guardian, or legal representative upon admission to such facility and to each new employee upon hire. Such documentation shall be kept at the facility;

(2) Each person providing consent has been advised in writing by the chronic and convalescent nursing home, or rest home with nursing supervision that the ingestion of potassium iodide is voluntary;

(3) Each person providing consent has been advised in writing by the chronic and convalescent nursing home, or rest home with nursing supervision about the contraindications and the potential side effects of taking potassium iodide, which include:

(A) persons who are allergic to iodine should not take potassium iodide;

(B) persons with chronic hives, lupus, or other conditions with hypocomplementemic vasculitis should not take potassium iodide;

(C) persons with Graves disease or people taking certain heart medications should talk to their physician before there is an emergency to decide whether or not to take potassium iodide; and,

(D) side effects including minor upset stomach or rash.

(4) Only those individuals with applicable statutory authority may distribute and administer potassium iodide to residents for whom written consent has been obtained; and,

(5) Potassium iodide tablets shall be stored in a locked storage area or container.