S 72301. REQUIRED SERVICES.

...(g) The facility shall make arrangements for a physician or physicians to be available to furnish emergency medical care if the attending physician, or designee, is unavailable. The telephone numbers of those physicians shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the facility.

72303. Physician Services - General Requirements.
(a) Physician services shall mean those services provided by physicians responsible for the care of individual patients in the facility. All persons admitted or accepted for care by the skilled nursing facility shall be under the care of a physician selected by the patient or patient's authorized representative.
(b) Physician services shall include but are not limited to:
(1) Patient evaluation including a written report of a physical examination within 5 days prior to admission or within 72 hours following admission.
(2) An evaluation of the patient and review of orders for care and treatment on change of attending physicians.
(3) Patient diagnoses.
(4) Advice, treatment and determination of appropriate level of care needed for each patient.
(5) Written and signed orders for diet, care, diagnostic tests and treatment of patients by others. Orders for restraints shall meet the requirements of Section 72319(b).
(6) Health record progress notes and other appropriate entries in the patient’s health records.
(7) Provision for alternate physician coverage in the event the attending physician is not available.
(c) Nonphysician practitioners may be permitted to render those medical services which they are legally authorized to perform. Nonphysician practitioners means any of the following:
(1) Physicians' assistants working under the responsibility and supervision of a physician approved as a supervisor by the Board of Medical Quality Assurance and performing only those selected diagnostic and therapeutic tasks identified in Title 16, California Administrative Code, Chapter 13, Subchapter 3, Article 5.
(2) Registered nurses may perform patient care services utilizing "Standardized Procedures" which have been approved by the medical staff, or by the medical director if there is no organized medical staff, the registered nurse and the administrator as authorized in the Business and Professions Code, Chapter 5, Article 2, Section 2725.
S 72305. PHYSICIAN SERVICES - MEDICAL DIRECTOR.

(a) The facility shall have a medical director who shall be responsible for standards, coordination, surveillance and planning for improvement of medical care in the facility.

(b) The medical director shall:

(1) Act as a liaison between administration and attending physicians.

(2) Be responsible for reviewing and evaluating administrative and patient care policies and procedures.

(3) Act as a consultant to the director of nursing service in matters relating to patient care services.

(4) Be responsible for reviewing employees’ preemployment and annual health examination reports.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

S 72307. PHYSICIAN SERVICES - SUPERVISION OF CARE.

(a) Each patient admitted to the skilled nursing facility shall be under the continuing supervision of a physician who evaluates the patient as needed and at least every 30 days unless there is an alternate schedule, and who documents the visits in the patient health record.

(b) Alternate schedules of visits shall be documented in the patient health record with a medical justification by the attending physician. The alternate schedule shall conform with facility policy.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 208(a) and 1275, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Section 1276, Health and Safety Code.

S 72523. PATIENT CARE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

... (c) Each facility shall establish and implement policies and procedures, including but not limited to:

(1) Physician services policies and procedures which include:

(A) Orientation of new physicians to the facility and changes in physician services and/or policies.

(B) Patient evaluation visits by the attending physician and documentation of alternate schedules for such visits.