7.15 Physician Services

A physician must personally approve in writing a recommendation that an individual be admitted to a facility. Each resident must remain under the care of a physician.

(a) Physician supervision. The facility must ensure that:

(1) the medical care of each resident is supervised by a physician; and

(2) another physician supervises the medical care of residents when their attending physician is unavailable.

(b) Physician visits. The physician must:

(1) review the resident’s total program of care, including medications and treatments, and examine the resident personally at each visit required by subsection 7.15(c).

(2) write, sign and date progress notes at each visit; and

(3) sign and date all orders.

(c) Frequency of physician visits. The resident must be seen by a physician:

(1) within 48 hours prior to admission or within 48 hours following admission; and

(2) at least every 6 months thereafter and as the resident’s condition warrants. The facility must assure that physician visits occur as clinically indicated for the resident.

(d) Except as provided in subsection 7.15(e), all required physician visits must be made by the physician personally.

(e) After the initial visit, at the option of the physician, required six-month visits, may alternate between personal visits by the physician and visits by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist in accordance with subsection 7.15(g) below.

(f) Availability of physicians for emergency care. The facility must provide or arrange for the provision of physician services 24 hours a day in case of emergency.

(g) Physician delegation of tasks. Except as specified in subsection 7.15(h), a physician may delegate tasks to a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist who:

(1) is licensed as such by the State;

(2) is acting within the scope of practice as defined by State law; and
(3) is under the supervision of the physician.

(h) A physician may not delegate a task when these rules specify that the physician must perform it personally, or when the delegation is prohibited under State law or by the facility’s own policies.

11.3 Medical Director

(a) The facility must designate a physician to serve as medical director.

(b) The medical director is responsible for:

(1) implementation of resident care policies; and

(2) the coordination of medical care in the facility.