

59A-4.1075 Medical Director.

(1) Each facility will have only one physician who is designated as Medical Director.

(2)(a) The Medical Director must be a physician licensed under Chapter 458 or 459, F.S., the nursing home administrator may require that the Medical Director be certified or credentialed through a recognized certifying or credentialing organization.

(b) A Medical Director who does not have hospital privileges shall be certified or credentialed through a recognized certifying or credentialing body, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the American Medical Directors Association, the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program of the American Osteopathic Association, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the American Osteopathic Association, the Florida Medical Directors Association or a Health maintenance organization licensed in Florida.

(c) A physician must have his/her principal office within 60 miles of all facilities for which he/she serves as Medical Director. Principal office is the office maintained by a physician pursuant to Section 458.351 or 459.026, F.S., and where the physician delivers the majority of medical services. The physician must specify the address of his/her principal office at the time of becoming Medical Director. The agency may approve a request to waive this requirement for rural facilities that exceed this distance requirement. A rural facility is a facility located in a county with a population density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile, which is at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally traveled roads under normal traffic conditions, from any other nursing home facility within the same county.

(d) The facility shall appoint a Medical Director who shall visit the facility at least once a month. The Medical Director shall review all new policies and procedures; review all new incident and new accident reports from the facility to identify clinical risk and safety hazards. The Medical Director shall review the most recent grievance logs for any complaints or concerns related to clinical issues. Each visit must be documented in writing by the Medical Director.

(3) A physician may be Medical Director of a maximum of 10 nursing homes at any one time. The Medical Director, in an emergency where the health of a resident is in jeopardy and the attending physician or covering physician cannot be located, may assume temporary responsibility of the care of the resident and provide the care deemed necessary.

(4) The Medical Director appointed by the facility shall meet at least quarterly with the quality assessment and assurance committee of the facility.

(5) The Medical Director appointed by the facility shall participate in the development of the comprehensive care plan for the resident when he/she is also the attending physician of the resident.

Specific Authority 400.141 FS. Law Implemented 400.141(2) FS. History—New 8-2-01.