

SUBCHAPTER 39. MANDATORY SOCIAL WORK

8:39-39.1 Mandatory social work policies and procedures

A social worker shall develop and implement specific criteria to identify residents who are likely candidates for discharge into the community or a less intensive care setting and to coordinate discharge planning.

8:39-39.2 Mandatory social work staff qualifications

Social work services shall be provided by one or more social workers who are certified or licensed by the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners, in accordance with the Social Worker's Licensing Act of 1991 (N.J.S.A. 45:15BB-1 et seq.) and all amendments thereto and with the rules of the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners, N.J.A.C. 13:44G.

8:39-39.3 Mandatory social work amounts and availability

(a) The facility shall provide an average of at least 20 minutes of social work services per week for each resident, which requires at least one full-time equivalent social worker for every 120 residents.

(b) A social worker shall assist staff in coping with the personal needs and demands of particular residents.

8:39-39.4 Mandatory resident social work services

(a) A social worker shall interview the resident and family within 14 days before or after admission to the facility to identify any social work needs or problems, and to take a social history that includes family, education, and occupational background, adjustment and level of functioning, interests, support systems, and observations.

(b) A social worker shall provide counseling for residents and families.

(c) A social worker shall facilitate communication between staff and non-English speaking residents.

(d) A social worker shall offer information and help to each resident and family on obtaining financial assistance and on the meaning of administrative forms and releases to be signed by the resident or family.

(e) A social worker shall coordinate the facility's outreach services to the families of residents.

(f) A social worker shall coordinate discharge services for residents, which shall include linking the resident to necessary community services.

(g) A social worker shall perform advocacy services on behalf of the residents to ensure that concrete needs are met, such as clothing, laundry, and the resident's personal needs allowance if one is maintained.

(h) A social worker shall help residents and families identify and gain access to community services, using resource materials and a knowledge of the residents' needs and abilities.

(i) The facility shall provide clinical social work services to residents as needed and to families if related to issues that directly affect the resident.

8:39-39.5 Mandatory space and environment for social work

The facility shall provide visual and auditory privacy for resident or family social service interviews, and for confidential telephone calls by social workers.

SUBCHAPTER 40. ADVISORY SOCIAL WORK

8:39-40.1 Advisory staff qualifications for social work

A social worker has a master's degree in social work from an accredited university or education program. He or she should provide consultant services at least eight hours per month, or be on the facility's staff.

8:39-40.2 Advisory staff amounts and availability for social work

(a) A social worker is available to the facility on evenings and weekends at scheduled times or by previously arranged appointments for interaction with residents and families, and is available seven days a week in cases of emergency or serious need.

(b) A social worker assists staff with problems and issues related to aging and illness.

(c) A social worker orients nurse aides to the social needs of new residents before the resident's arrival in the facility.

8:39-40.3 Advisory resident social work services

(a) A social worker meets with the resident on the day of admission.

(b) A social worker conducts support groups for families.

(c) A social worker conducts group counseling sessions for residents and families.

(d) A social worker participates in pre-admission planning with residents and families prior to their admission to the nursing home.

(e) The social worker encourages and monitors a regular visiting pattern by families and provides outreach services to families where the visiting pattern has changed.

8:39-40.4 Advisory space and environment for social work

Social workers are to be provided with a private office equipped with a telephone or, in facilities with 60 or fewer licensed beds, with access to a private office equipped with a telephone.

8:39-40.5 Advisory social work staff education and training

The facility encourages the social worker to participate in community agency associations and other professional organizations.