



CDSS

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# ADULT AND SENIOR CARE UPDATE



## WINTER 2013

This is the Winter Edition of the **Adult and Senior Care Update**. Our goal is to provide you with timely and relevant information about issues that affect adult and senior care licensed facilities. We hope you will take time to review the *Update* and share it with members of your organization, as well as with others interested in adult and senior care issues.

### **NEW SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME AND STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT RATES AND NON-MEDICAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE PAYMENT STANDARDS FOR 2013**

New Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) rates are effective January 1, 2013. The new rates reflect a slight increase to the SSI portion of the benefit. A chart showing the new estimated SSI/SSP payment standards in addition to a second chart showing the new, non-medical, out-of-home care payment standards are on the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website – see: <http://www.cclcd.ca.gov/res/pdf/12APX-17.pdf>

### **UPDATED RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY REGULATIONS**

Senate Bill 781 (Leno), Chapter 617, Statutes of 2009 added Section 1569.683 to the Health and Safety Code. This law requires licensees of a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) to include specified information in the notice to quit (eviction notice) given to residents prior to their eviction. The purpose of this law is to provide consumer awareness and to ensure that eviction notices do not violate residents' rights.

Regulations are located at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ord/entres/getinfo/pdf/cc1206.pdf>

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDERS**

### **AVOID WILD MUSHROOMS**

Collecting, serving, and eating wild mushrooms can cause serious illness and even death. In November 2012, four people died and two were sickened at an elder care home in Northern California after a caretaker served them gravy made from mushrooms that sprouted in the backyard.

Every year across the United States, more than 9,000 cases of mushroom ingestions are reported to the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Many hundreds of these cases of mushroom ingestions occur each year in California, according to the California Poison Control Centers (CPCS).

Eating wild mushrooms have caused multiple illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths. Eating poisonous mushrooms also can cause abdominal pain, cramping, vomiting, diarrhea, liver damage and death. Individuals who develop any of these symptoms after eating wild mushrooms should seek medical attention.

Individuals with symptoms, or their treating health care providers, should immediately contact CPCS at 1-800-222-1222. For more information on poisonous mushrooms, please see the California Poison Control System web at: <http://www.calpoison.com/public/mushrooms.html>

Licensees are reminded they must contact their local licensing office when an event occurs impacting the health and safety of those in care. For a list of Adult and Senior Care Program offices, see: <http://www.cclid.ca.gov/res/pdf/ASC.pdf>

### **OBTAIN INFLUENZA VACCINATION**

During the flu season, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend a yearly full vaccine in protecting against this serious disease. Flu activity commonly peaks in January or February. Seasonal flu activity, however, can begin as late as May. The CDC has information about the 2012-13 influenza season, vaccination recommendations and disease activity. For more information see: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season>

### **HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NOROVIRUSES**

Each year, more than 20 million cases of gastroenteritis caused by noroviruses, which range from simple nausea to food poisoning, occur across the United States, according to the CDC. This virus, which is not related to the flu, is estimated to cause over 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths each year in the U.S.

Noroviruses are spread very easily, especially by sick food handlers and by eating contaminated commercial foods such as leafy vegetables, fruits, and oysters. There is

no vaccine for norovirus; however, the following tips can help prevent contracting or transmitting the illness:

- wash hands thoroughly with soap and water;
- take care in the kitchen – wash all fruits and vegetables thoroughly – and cook oysters and other seafood thoroughly as well;
- clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces; and
- wash laundry thoroughly.

For more information, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/features/norovirus/>

## **FALL PREVENTION GUIDANCE**

According to the CDC, each year, one in every three adults ages 65 or older falls and two million are treated in emergency departments for fall-related injuries. The risk of falling also increases with each decade of life. The long-term consequences of fall injuries, such as hip fractures and traumatic brain injuries, can impact the health and independence of older adults. Thankfully, falls are not an inevitable part of aging. In fact, many falls can be prevented. Everyone can take actions to protect the older adults they care about. For more information on fall prevention see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/OlderAmericans/index.html>

## **PLAN AHEAD FOR EARTHQUAKES OR OTHER DISASTERS**

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the prospects of severe weather, earthquakes, or other disasters, it is important for all licensees to be prepared to protect residents and staff.

To meet this need, the Earthquake Country Alliance has produced a new publication, “Information and Resources for People with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.” The Alliance is a statewide group of regional alliances administered by the Southern California Earthquake Center at the University of Southern California. The publication is available online at: <http://earthquakecountry.info/disability/>

## **PROMOTIONS AND NEW MANAGERS**

**Michele Wong** became the new Assistant Program Administrator for the Adult and Senior Care Program effective September 24, 2012. Michele comes from the Northern California Children’s Residential Regional Office where she held the Regional Manager position since March 2, 2009. Prior to that, she was a Licensing Program Manager with the San Jose Child Care Regional Office for approximately two and a half years and she was also a Licensing Program Analyst with the San Jose Child Care Regional Office for almost six years where she was the application specialist for four of those years. Michele has an undergraduate degree in psychology and early childhood education from Pacific Union College and a master’s in experimental psychology from San Jose State University. Welcome Michele!

**Kimberly Lyon** is the new Regional Manager for the Southern California Adult and Senior Care Regional Office, effective September 21, 2012. Kimberly has been the Acting Regional Manager for this region since March 2012. Prior to that, she was the Licensing Program Manager for the Southern Region Adult Care local unit in San Diego from March 2009 to March 2012. Kimberly also worked in the Adult and Senior Care Program Office as an Associate Governmental Program Analyst from April 2005 to March 2009. Prior to working at CCLD, Kimberly worked at Fairview Developmental Center for seven years as a Licensed Psychiatric Technician/Unit Supervisor. Welcome Kim!

**Brenda Barner** is the new Bureau Chief for the Technical Assistance Bureau (TAB). Brenda comes to the Technical Assistance Policy Branch from the Department's Welfare to Work Division where she was manager of the Overpayment Collection and Review Unit in the Fraud and Emergency Food Assistance Program Bureau. She has been with the Department for more than nine years providing oversight to County Welfare Departments. Brenda has a teaching background and will be responsible for overseeing TAB's Central Training Section and the Administrator Certification Section. Welcome Brenda!

**Fernando Sandoval** is new Bureau Chief for the Policy Development Bureau. He has been with the Department for 12 years. The majority of his experience in state service has been in the capacity of legislation, policy and policy development. Fernando will be responsible for overseeing the Adult, Senior, and Children's Residential Policy Units. Welcome Fernando!

## **SUMMARY**

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Fernando Sandoval, Chief, Policy Development Bureau, at (916) 651-3456. Please visit our website at [www.CCLD.ca.gov](http://www.CCLD.ca.gov) for copies of *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by Kathi Mowers-Moore for***

JEFFREY HIRATSUKA  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division