

G798

(Rev. 182, Issued: 09-28-18, Effective: 09-28-18, Implementation: 09-28-18)

§484.80(g)(1) Home health aides are assigned to a specific patient by a registered nurse or other appropriate skilled professional, with written patient care instructions for a home health aide prepared by that registered nurse or other appropriate skilled professional (that is, physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, or occupational therapist).

Interpretive Guidelines §484.80(g)(1)

The act of assigning a “specific patient” to a HH aide should be an intentional and deliberate decision that takes into consideration the skills of the aide, the availability of the aide for patient care continuity, patient preference (when possible), and other considerations as determined by the patient’s care needs.

Most generally, HH aide services are provided in conjunction with, and as an adjunct to, a skilled nursing service. When both nursing and therapy services are involved, nursing staff maintains the overall responsibility for the written patient care instructions, with input from the other skilled professionals as appropriate. It is possible, however, that a skilled therapist may identify a patient need for HH aide services (as discussed in §484.80(b)(3)) in association with a skilled therapy service only. In these cases, the skilled therapist may develop the plan for the HH aide and may perform the required HH aide supervision. Any concerns regarding the HH aide identified by the therapist as part of the therapist’s supervision must be communicated to the HHA clinical manager or supervising nurse, whichever appropriate.