

G680

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§484.70 Condition of participation: Infection prevention and control.

The HHA must maintain and document an infection control program which has as its goal the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Interpretive Guidelines § 484.70

The home health setting presents unique challenges for infection control, because: care is delivered in the home environment, not a structured facility; sterile supplies are transported by staff and may need to be stored and protected in the home; and patients may not have access to basic hygiene necessities in their home. It is essential that HHAs have a comprehensive and effective infection control program, because the consequences of poor infection prevention and control can be very serious.

The manner and degree of noncompliance identified in relation to the standard level tags for §484.70 may result in substantial noncompliance with this CoP, requiring citation at the condition level.

Survey Procedures § 484.70

- Surveyors will focus their observation of infection control practices by the HHA during home visits.*
- Determine whether the policies and procedures of the HHA's infection control program are implemented correctly based on observations of care.*
- Determine that there is an ongoing, documented program for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases among patients and HHA personnel.*