



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

May 27, 2022

ALTSA: AFH #2022-022
ALTSA: ALF #2022-019
ALTSA: ESF #2022-018
ALTSA: NH #2022-033
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2022-011

**USE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BY LICENSED AND CERTIFIED
LONG-TERM CARE PROVIDERS**

Dear Administrator, Provider, or Superintendent:

This letter rescinds ALTSA: NH #2015-013 – Use of Emergency Medical Services.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of relevant state laws and rules pertaining to your responsibilities related to residents, their medical issues, and the use of the local fire department and emergency medical services (EMS) or 9-1-1. Please remember that you are required to have sufficient and trained staff at all times to respond to resident needs, including medical emergencies.

Nursing Homes (NH): Applicable sections in [Chapter 388-97 WAC](#) - include 1000, 1080, 1260, and 1660; and [F-Tags](#): F656 (42 CFR 483.21); F689 (42 CFR 483.25); F725, and F726 (42 CR 483.35).

Assisted Living Facilities (ALF): Applicable sections in [Chapter 388-78A WAC](#) – include 2050, 2090, 2140, 2450, and 2600.

Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities: Applicable sections in [W-Tag](#) W186; and 42 CFR 483.430 (d)(1).

Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF): Applicable sections in [Chapter 388-107](#) – include 0240, 0410, 0760, 1580, 1590, and 1600.

Adult Family Homes (AFH): Applicable sections in [Chapter 388-76 WAC](#) – include 10020, 10135, 10195, 10355, 10390, 10400, and 10405.

You should only call 9-1-1 when the resident:

- Has an acute, serious, life-threatening medical condition or complaint;
- Is medically unstable; or
- Has an immediate health risk.

Do not call 9-1-1 when the resident's condition is:

- Medically stable; or
- Non-acute or not serious.

This letter does not mean that you should never call 9-1-1. When your evaluation or assessment of the resident shows the resident may have a medical emergency, you should call 9-1-1. Please refer to the guidance on page 2 when calling 9-1-1.

**GUIDANCE* FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE AND TRANSPORT REQUESTS**

When Calling 9-1-1:	When EMS Arrives:
<p>Be ready to relay the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your name and name of facility or home• Address where help is needed• Call-back number• Resident information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Age✓ Gender✓ Special medical complaint or problem: “Chest pain”, “Shortness of breath”, etc.✓ Medical history relevant to or potentially impacted by the current medical event✓ Any medical treatment provided and status change. <p>Remember to call 9-1-1 again if conditions worsen.</p>	<p>Please be prepared to provide as much information as you can including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resident age and gender• Details of medical complaint or problem• Level of consciousness• Vital signs• Medical history• Medications• Care provided: oxygen, ECG (Electrocardiogram), IV (Intravenous), medications, etc.• Plan and transport destination• Medical orders and directives

*This guidance includes information from King County Emergency Medical Services.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager. For additional guidance regarding medical emergency response in your facility, you may contact your local fire department or EMS provider.

Sincerely,



Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: “Transforming Lives”