



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

December 13, 2019

ALTA: NH #2019-029
NURSING ASSISTANT TESTING PROCESS CHANGE

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator

This letter is to inform you of a change in the testing process used in the Nursing Assistant training programs.

The Department of Health (DOH), Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC), and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) share responsibility for Nursing Assistant – Certified program training, approval, testing and certification. In general, DOH manages the parts of the program governed by state regulations ([246-841 WAC](#) and [246-842 WAC](#)), including approval of training programs and issuing NA certification.

DSHS, through Residential Care Services, manages the conditions associated with federal requirements for NA training found in [CFR 483.150 through 483.160](#). This includes oversight of nursing home based training programs and imposition of sanctions when a home does not meet conditions defined in the federal regulation.

DSHS also manages the competency evaluation (test) portion of the NA program. Currently, DSHS contracts with Pearson VUE to provide testing.

Effective January 1, 2020, DOH will assume responsibility for competency evaluations conducted for NA students.

Please note the application process and contacts for NA certification are not changing.

Contact information for questions:

- DSHS: [Anne Richter](#), NATCEP Manager, at 360-725-2596
- DOH/NCQAC: [Kathy Moio](#), Director of Nursing Assistant Programs, at (360) 236-4712 or [Stephanie Bryant](#), Nursing Assistant Program Specialist, at (360) 236-4792.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"