

CHAPTER 50  
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION

**481—50.1(10A) Inspections.** The health facilities division inspects health care facilities, hospitals, and providers and suppliers of medical services in Iowa. Standards to obtain a license are explained in this chapter.

**481—50.2(10A) Definitions.**

*“Administrator”* means the person coordinating the administration of the division.

*“Department”* means the department of inspections and appeals.

*“Director”* means the director of inspections and appeals.

*“Division”* means the health facilities division.

**481—50.3(135B,135C) Licensing.** All hospitals and health care facilities shall be licensed by the department. Applications are available from the Health Facilities Division, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0083. Completed applications are returned to the division with the fee.

**50.3(1)** Initial fees for hospitals are:

- a. Fifty beds or less, \$15;
- b. More than 50 and not more than 100 beds, \$25;
- c. Any greater number of beds, \$50.

A fee of \$10 is charged to renew a hospital license each year.

**50.3(2)** Initial and renewal fees for health care facilities are:

- a. Ten beds or less, \$20;
- b. More than 10 and not more than 25 beds, \$40;
- c. More than 26 and not more than 75 beds, \$60;
- d. More than 76 and not more than 150 beds, \$80;
- e. Any greater number of beds, \$100.

**50.3(3)** Standards used to determine whether a license is granted or retained are found in the rules of the department of inspections and appeals in the Iowa Administrative Code as follows:

- a. Hospitals, 481—Chapter 51;
- b. Hospices, 481—Chapter 53;
- c. Residential care facilities, 481—Chapters 57 and 60;
- d. Nursing facilities, 481—Chapters 58 and 61;
- e. Residential care facilities for persons with mental illness, 481—Chapters 60 and 62;
- f. Residential care facilities for the mentally retarded, 481—Chapters 60 and 63;
- g. Intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, 481—Chapter 64; and
- h. Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental illness, 481—Chapter 65.

**50.3(4)** Posting of license. The license shall be posted in each facility so the public can see it easily.

**481—50.4(135C) Fines and citations.** A fine or citation will be issued and may be contested according to the rules in 481—Chapter 56.

**481—50.5(135C) Denial, suspension or revocation.**

**50.5(1)** A denial, suspension or revocation shall be effective 30 days after certified mailing or personal service of the notice.

**50.5(2)** A hearing may be requested and the request must be made in writing to the department within 30 days of the mailing or service.

**481—50.6(10A) Formal hearing.** All decisions of the division may be contested. Appeals and hearings are controlled by 481—Chapter 10, “Contested Case Hearings.”

**50.6(1)** The proposed decision of the hearing officer becomes final ten days after it is mailed.

**50.6(2)** Any request for administrative review of a proposed decision must:

1. Be made in writing,

2. Be mailed by certified mail to the director, within ten days after the proposed decision was mailed to the aggrieved party,

3. State the reason(s) for the request.

A copy shall also be sent to the hearing officer at the Department of Inspections and Appeals, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

**50.6(3)** The decision of the director shall be based upon the record and becomes final agency action upon mailing by certified mail.

**50.6(4)** The fees of witnesses for attendance and travel shall be the same as the fees for witnesses before the district court and shall be paid by the party to the proceeding at whose request the subpoena is issued.

**481—50.7(10A,135C) Additional notification.** The director or the director's designee shall be notified within 24 hours:

**50.7(1)** Of any accident causing major injury or death including but not limited to:

- a. The resident wandered away,
- b. The resident was assaulted,
- c. The resident attempted suicide.

**50.7(2)** When damage to the facility which impairs its ability to function is caused by fire or natural or other disaster.

The director or the director's designee shall be notified within 24 hours by the most expeditious means available. A written report may be requested by the department. (I, II, III)

**481—50.8(22,135B,135C) Records.** The division collects and stores a variety of records in the course of licensing and inspecting health care facilities. Some information stored may be personally identifiable. None is retrievable by personal identifier with the exception of a business which uses an individual's name in the title. All records stored by the health facilities division are kept in files under the name of a facility. Computer files are retrieved by facility name also.

**50.8(1)** The department maintains information about long-term care facilities in files which are organized by facility name, city, and county. No information is retrievable by personal identifier. Each long-term care facility record contains both open and confidential information.

a. Open information includes:

- (1) License application and status,
- (2) Variance requests and responses,
- (3) Final findings of state and Medicaid survey investigations,
- (4) Records of complaints,
- (5) Reports from the fire marshal,
- (6) Plans of correction submitted by the facility,
- (7) Medicaid status,
- (8) Official notices of license and Medicaid sanctions.

b. Confidential information includes:

(1) Survey or investigation information which does not comprise a final finding. Survey information which does not comprise a final finding may be made public in a proceeding concerning the citation of a facility, denial, suspension or revocation of a license, Iowa Code section 135C.19(1),

(2) Names of all complainants, Iowa Code sections 135C.19(1) and 135C.37,

(3) Names of patients in all facilities, identifying medical information and the address of anyone other than an owner, Section 1106 of the Social Security Act as amended, 42 CFR Part 401, Subpart B (October 1, 1986) and Iowa Code sections 22.9 and 135C.19(1).

**50.8(2)** The department maintains records about hospitals. The records are organized by facility name, city, and county. The records are not retrievable by personal identifier. The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is referred to as JCAHO, and the American Osteopathic Association is referred to as AOA in this rule. These records may contain both open and confidential information.

*a.* Open information includes:

- (1) License status,
- (2) Medicare certification status,
- (3) Medicare survey reports,
- (4) Plans of correction submitted by a hospital,
- (5) Official notices of involuntary provider termination or license sanctions,
- (6) For hospitals not certified by JCAHO or AOA, reports of the fire marshal,
- (7) Final survey findings of the JCAHO and the AOA with respect to compliance by a hospital with the requirements for licensure or accreditation.

*b.* Confidential information includes:

- (1) Names of patients and identifying medical information,
- (2) Identity of any complainant, and
- (3) The address of anyone other than the owner, Iowa Code section 135B.12 and Section 1106 of the Social Security Act, 42 CFR Part 401, Subpart B (October 1, 1986) and Iowa Code section 22.9.
- (4) Rescinded IAB 2/19/92, effective 3/25/92.
- (5) No information may be disclosed in a manner which will identify individuals or hospitals except in a proceeding concerning the question of license or the denial, suspension or revocation of a license, Iowa Code section 135B.12.

**50.8(3)** The department maintains files for all other Medicare-certified facilities. These files are organized by facility or agency name, city, and county. None is retrievable by personal identifier except when a business uses an individual's name in its title. These files contain both open and confidential information.

*a.* Open information includes:

- (1) Certification status,
- (2) Survey reports,
- (3) Plans of correction,
- (4) Official notices of involuntary provider termination,
- (5) Proficiency test results for non-JCAHO or AOA accredited hospitals, Medicare laboratories and laboratories licensed under the clinical Laboratory Improvement Act.

*b.* Confidential information includes:

- (1) Name of any patient,
- (2) Medical information about any identifiable patient,
- (3) The identity of any complainant, and
- (4) The address of anyone other than an owner of the facility, Section 1106 of the Social Security Act, 43 CFR, Part 401, Subpart B (October 1, 1986), and Iowa Code section 22.9.

**50.8(4)** Rescinded IAB 3/31/04, effective 5/5/04.

**50.8(5)** Following a written request and payment of a fee in the amount determined by the department, one or more of the following lists may be obtained by the public.

*a.* Corporations which own more than one facility and the list of facilities owned by each corporation.

*b.* All the facilities in the state with the owner of the real estate property identified.

*c.* All corporations that lease facilities and the facilities they lease.

*d.* All corporations which manage facilities for other owners and the facilities they manage.

Requests are sent to Health Facilities Division, Department of Inspections and Appeals, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

**481—50.9(135C) Background checks.** Beginning July 1, 1988, each home health agency or hospice that is regulated by the state or receives any state or federal funding shall submit a form specified by the department of public safety to the department of public safety and receive the results of a criminal history check and dependent adult abuse record check before any person is employed by the home health agency or hospice. The home health agency or hospice may submit a form specified by the department of human services to the department of human services to request a child abuse history check.

For the purposes of this rule, “employed in or by a home health agency or hospice” shall be defined as any individual who is paid, either by the home health agency, hospice or any other entity (i.e., temporary agency, private duty, Medicare/Medicaid or independent contractor) to provide direct or indirect treatment or services to patients of the home health agency or hospice. Direct treatment or services include those provided through person-to-person contact. Indirect treatment or services include, but are not limited to, person-to-person contact services provided by administration, homemaker aides, and assistants.

**50.9(1)** A person who has a criminal record or founded dependent adult abuse report cannot be employed in a home health agency or hospice unless the department of human services has evaluated the crime or founded abuse report and concluded that the crime or founded abuse report does not merit prohibition from employment.

**50.9(2)** Each home health agency or hospice shall ask each person seeking employment by the home health agency or hospice, “Do you have a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse or have you ever been convicted of a crime in this state or any other state?” The person shall also be informed that a criminal history and dependent adult abuse record check will be conducted. The person shall indicate, by signature, that the person has been informed that the record checks will be conducted.

**50.9(3)** If a person has a record of founded child abuse in Iowa or any other state, the person shall not be employed by a home health agency or hospice unless the department of human services has evaluated the crime or founded abuse report and concluded that the report does not merit prohibition of employment.

**50.9(4)** Proof of dependent adult abuse and criminal history checks may be kept in files maintained by the temporary employment agencies and contractors. Home health agencies and hospices may require temporary agencies and contractors to provide a copy of the results of dependent adult abuse and criminal history checks.

**50.9(5)** The results of a records check shall be valid for a period of 30 days from the date it was requested during which time the facility may determine whether the potential employee is to be hired.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 22.11, 135B.3 to 135B.7, 135C.6, 135C.7, 135C.10, 135C.11, 135C.14, 135C.16, 135C.19, and 135C.26.

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