

481—58.39(135C) Residents' rights in general.

58.39(1) Each facility shall ensure that policies and procedures are written and implemented which include, at a minimum, all of the following provisions (subrules 58.39(2) to 58.39(6)) and which govern all areas of service provided by the facility. These policies and procedures shall be available to staff, residents, their families or legal representatives and the public and shall be reviewed annually. (II)

58.39(2) Policies and procedures shall address the admission and retention of persons with histories of dangerous or disturbing behavior. For the purposes of the subrule, persons with histories of dangerous or disturbing behavior are those persons who have been found to be seriously mentally impaired pursuant to Iowa Code section 229.13 within six months of the request for admission to the facility. In addition to establishing the criteria for admission and retention of persons so defined, the policies and procedures shall provide for:

a. Reasonable precautions to prevent the resident from harming self, other residents, or employees of the facility.

b. Treatment of persons with mental illness as defined in Iowa Code section 229.1(1) and which is provided in accordance with the individualized health care plan.

c. Ongoing and documented staff training on individualized health care planning for persons with mental illness.

58.39(3) Policies and procedures regarding the admission, transfer, and discharge of residents shall ensure that:

a. Only those persons are accepted whose needs can be met by the facility directly or in cooperation with community resources or other providers of care with which it is affiliated or has contracts. (II)

b. As changes occur in residents' physical or mental condition, necessitating services or care which cannot be adequately provided by the facility, they are transferred promptly to other appropriate facilities. (II)

58.39(4) Policies and procedures regarding the use of chemical and physical restraints shall define the use of said restraints and identify the individual who may authorize the application of physical restraints in emergencies, and describe the mechanism for monitoring and controlling their use. (II)

58.39(5) Policies and procedures shall include a method for submitting complaints and recommendations by residents or their responsible party and for ensuring a response and disposition by the facility. (II)

58.39(6) Policies and procedures shall include provisions governing access to, duplication of, and dissemination of information from the residents' records. (II)

58.39(7) Policies and procedures shall include a provision that each resident shall be fully informed of the resident's rights and responsibilities as a resident and of all rules governing resident conduct and responsibilities. This information must be provided upon admission, or in the case of residents already in the facility, upon the facility's adoption or amendment of residents' rights policies. (II)

a. The facility shall make known to residents what they may expect from the facility and its staff, and what is expected from them. The facility shall communicate these expectations during the period of not more than two weeks before or five days after admission. The communication shall be in writing, e.g., in a separate handout or brochure describing the facility, and interpreted verbally, e.g., as part of a preadmission interview, resident counseling, or in individual or group orientation sessions following admission. (II)

b. Residents' rights and responsibilities shall be presented in language understandable to the resident. If the facility serves residents who are non-English speaking or deaf or hard of hearing, steps shall be taken to translate the information into a foreign or sign language. In the case of blind residents, either Braille or a recording shall be provided. Residents shall be encouraged to ask questions about their rights and responsibilities and these questions shall be answered. (II)

c. A statement shall be signed by the resident, or the resident's responsible party, indicating an understanding of these rights and responsibilities, and shall be maintained in the record. The statement shall be signed no later than five days after admission, and a copy of the signed statement shall be given to the resident or responsible party, if applicable. In the case of an intellectually disabled resident, the signature shall be witnessed by a person not associated with or employed by the facility. The witness may be a parent, guardian, Medicaid agency representative, etc. (II)

d. In order to ensure that residents continue to be aware of these rights and responsibilities during their stay, a written copy shall be prominently posted in a location that is available to all residents. (II)

e. All residents shall be advised within 30 days following changes made in the statement of residents' rights and responsibilities. Appropriate means shall be utilized to inform non-English speaking, deaf or hard-of-hearing, or blind residents of such changes. (II)

58.39(8) Each resident or responsible party shall be fully informed in a contract as required in rule 481—58.13(135C), prior to or at the time of admission and during the resident's stay, of services available in the facility, and of related charges including any charges for services not covered under the Title XIX program or not covered by the facility's basic per diem rate. (II)

58.39(9) Each resident or responsible party shall be fully informed by a physician of the resident's health and medical condition unless medically contraindicated (as documented by a physician in the resident's record). Each resident shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in the planning of the resident's total care and medical treatment, which may include, but is not limited to, nursing care, nutritional care, rehabilitation, restorative therapies, activities, and social work services. Each resident only participates in experimental research conducted under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' protection from research risks policy and then only upon the resident's informed written consent. Each resident has the right to refuse treatment except as provided by Iowa Code chapter 229. In the case of a confused or intellectually disabled individual, the responsible party shall be informed by the physician of the resident's medical condition and be afforded the opportunity to participate in the planning of the resident's total care and medical treatment, to be informed of the medical condition, and to refuse to participate in experimental research. (II)

a. The requirement that residents shall be informed of their conditions, involved in the planning of their care, and advised of any significant changes in either shall be communicated to every physician responsible for the medical care of residents in the facility. (II)

b. The administrator or designee shall be responsible for working with attending physicians in the implementation of this requirement. (II)

c. If the physician determines or in the case of a confused or intellectually disabled resident the responsible party determines that informing the resident of the resident's condition is contraindicated, this decision and reasons for it shall be documented in the resident's record by the physician. (II)

d. The resident's plan of care shall be based, in part, on the physician's orders. It shall be developed upon admission by appropriate facility staff and shall include participation by the resident if capable. Residents shall be advised of alternative courses of care and treatment and their consequences when such alternatives are available. The resident's preference about alternatives shall be elicited and honored if feasible.

e. Any clinical investigation involving residents must be under the sponsorship of an institution with a human subjects review board functioning in accordance with the requirements of 45 CFR 46. A resident being considered for participation in experimental research must be fully informed of the nature of the experiment, e.g., medication, treatment, and understand the possible consequences of participating or not participating. The resident's (or responsible party's) written informed consent must be received prior to participation. (II)

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 135C.23(2).

[ARC 0766C, IAB 5/29/13, effective 7/3/13; ARC 5711C, IAB 6/16/21, effective 7/21/21; ARC 7033C, IAB 5/31/23, effective 7/5/23]