

481—50.7(10A,135C) Additional notification. A health care facility shall notify the department within 24 hours, or the next business day, by the most expeditious means available (I,II,III):

50.7(1) Of any accident causing major injury.

a. “Major injury” shall be defined as any injury which:

- (1) Results in death; or
- (2) Requires admission to a higher level of care for treatment, other than for observation; or
- (3) Requires consultation with the attending physician, designee of the physician, or physician extender who determines, in writing on a form designated by the department, that an injury is a “major injury” based upon the circumstances of the accident, the previous functional ability of the resident, and the resident’s prognosis.

b. The following are not reportable accidents:

- (1) An ambulatory resident, as defined in rules 481—57.1(135C), 481—58.1(135C), and 481—63.1(135C), who falls when neither the facility nor its employees have culpability related to the fall, even if the resident sustains a major injury; or
- (2) Spontaneous fractures; or
- (3) Hairline fractures.

50.7(2) When damage to the facility is caused by a natural or other disaster, including physical impairments affecting operations (e.g., failure of a heating or cooling system, water heater failure).

50.7(3) When there is an act that causes major injury to a resident or when a facility has knowledge of a pattern of acts committed by the same resident on another resident that results in any physical injury. For the purposes of this subrule, “pattern” means two or more times within a 30-day period.

50.7(4) When a resident elopes from a facility. For the purposes of this subrule, “elopes” means when a resident who has impaired decision-making ability leaves the facility without the knowledge or authorization of staff.

50.7(5) When a resident attempts suicide, regardless of injury.

50.7(6) When a fire occurs in a facility and the fire requires the notification of emergency services, require full or partial evacuation of the facility, or causes physical injury to a resident.

50.7(7) When a defect or failure occurs in the fire sprinkler or fire alarm system for more than 4 hours in a 24-hour period. (This reporting requirement is in addition to the requirement to notify the state fire marshal.)

NOTE: Additional reporting requirements are created by other rules and statutes, including but not limited to Iowa Code chapter 235E, which requires reporting of dependent adult abuse.

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