



CLARIFYING THE HEALTH STATEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR FLORIDA HOME HEALTH AGENCIES AND NURSE REGISTRIES

Key Points

- In the past, State of Florida regulations required that both home health agencies and nurse registries collect health statements from field staff.
- The state regulations for home health agencies **eliminated this requirement several years ago.**
- The state regulations for nurse registries have continued to require a health statement for all independent contractors including homemakers and companions.
- Oftentimes, health statements also document TB screening results. The TB screening results are still required for newly hired staff both in home health agencies and nurse registries. The specific change in the regulations only applies to the health statement.
- Independent contractors must provide a signed health statement that the independent contractor is free from signs and symptoms of communicable illness. **The date of the statement must be within six months prior to the point in time the nurse registry provides its first client referral to the independent contractor.** This is not necessarily the time at which the independent contractor completes their file. The health statement must be signed by a licensed health care professional as specified in the regulations. Failure to do so may be cited as a deficiency during a state inspection.

ST - G0151 - Communicable Disease

Regulatory Language

Prior to contact with patients or clients, each independent contractor referred for client care must furnish to the registry a statement from a **health care professional licensed under chapters 458 or 459, F.S., a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse or a registered nurse licensed under chapter 464, F.S., under the supervision of a licensed physician, or acting pursuant to an established protocol signed by a licensed physician,** dated within the last six months, that the contractor is free from communicable diseases.

The independent contractor will provide this statement to the nurse registry when first referred. s. 400.506, F.S. (6)(a) A nurse registry may refer for contract in private residences

registered nurses and licensed practical nurses registered and licensed under part I of chapter 464, certified nursing assistants certified under part II of chapter 464, home health aides who present documented proof of successful completion of the training required by rule of the agency, and companions or homemakers for the purposes of providing those services authorized under s. 400.509(1).

A licensed nurse registry shall ensure that each certified nursing assistant referred for contract by the nurse registry and each home health aide referred for contract by the nurse registry has presented credentials demonstrating that he or she is adequately trained to perform the tasks of a home health aide in the home setting. Each person referred by a nurse registry must provide current documentation that he or she is free from communicable diseases.