



Long-Term Care Regulation Provider Letter

Number: PL 2023-08
Title: Adoption of Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center Updated Rules
Provider Types: Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPECC)
Date Issued: March 27, 2023

1.0 Subject and Purpose

This letter provides guidance for new rules in Texas Administrative Code, Title 26 (26 TAC), Chapter 550, Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPECC), effective March 20, 2023. The new rules update nursing degree requirements for the nursing director and alternate nursing director and staffing ratio requirements, including those required for transporting minors.

The amendments also add a definition for the term "premises," remove the term "public health disaster declaration," update outdated references to Texas Food Establishment rules, correct rule references that became outdated as a result of the administrative transfer of rules from 40 TAC Chapter 15 to 26 TAC Chapter 550 and reflect the transfer of functions from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to HHSC.

2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

2.1 Nursing Director and Alternate Nursing Director Qualifications

The updated rules in 26 TAC §550.309, which describe the required qualifications and conditions for a nursing director and alternate nursing director, no longer require a baccalaureate degree in nursing.¹

¹ [26 TAC §550.309](#)

Other qualifications, including a valid RN license with no disciplinary action, a valid certification in CPR or basic cardiac life support, and a minimum of two years of management experience in a setting caring for a medically or technologically dependent minor or other pediatric specialty settings are still required for both the nursing director and alternate nursing director.

2.2 Staffing Ratio Requirements

Updated rules in 26 TAC §550.309 allow for the nursing director to be included in the center's staffing ratio except when the center's actual census is less than four minors and the nursing director is also functioning as the center administrator.

The alternate nursing director may be included in the center's staffing ratio except when the alternate nursing director is also functioning as the nursing director, the center administrator, or the center alternate administrator.²

2.3 Staffing Transportation

Updated rules in 26 TAC §550.1102 require a nurse to accompany minors, as necessary during transport, as determined by the minor's plan of care. Providers must include in the plan of care whether a nurse is required for a minor who utilizes the center's transportation services.³

For a minor whose plan of care indicates a nurse is not required during transport, a nurse does not have to accompany the minor utilizing the center's transportation.

² [26 TAC §550.309](#)

³ [26 TAC §550.1102](#)

2.3 Definition of “Premises”

Updated rules in 26 TAC §550.5 include the addition of the definition of “premises” as the term which includes the center, any lots on which the center is located, any outside ground areas, any outside play areas, and the parking lot.⁴

3.0 Background/History

HHSC is issuing this letter to notify PPECC providers of new rules effective March 20, 2023.

4.0 Resources

None.

5.0 Contact Information

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy and Rules Section by email at LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call (512) 438-3161.

⁴ [26 TAC §550.5](#)