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**State of Wisconsin**  
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DQA Memo 14-004

<b>To:</b>	Adult Family Homes	AFH 01
	Certified Mental Health and AODA	CMHA 02
	Community-Based Residential Facilities	CBRF 02
	Facilities Serving People with Developmental Disabilities	FDD 02
	Home Health Agencies	HHA 01
	Hospices	HSPCE 01
	Hospitals	HOSP 01
	Nurse Aide Training Programs	NATP 01
	Nursing Homes	NH 02
	Personal Care Providers	PCA 01
	Residential Care Apartment Complexes	RCAC 01

**From:** Laurie Arkens, Director  
Office of Caregiver Quality

**Via:** Otis Woods, Administrator  
Division of Quality Assurance

**2013 Wisconsin Act 357 – Nurse Aide Training “Bridge” Program**

The purpose of this memo is to provide information to health care providers and nurse aide training programs regarding 2013 Wisconsin Act 357. The complete text of 2013 Wisconsin Act 357 can be found at: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/related/acts/357.pdf>

**2013 Wisconsin Act 357**

2013 Wisconsin Act 357 was signed into law on April 23, 2014. The new law allows the Department of Health Services (DHS) to approve “bridge” nurse aide training programs designed for individuals who received nurse aide training of less than 120 hours in another state, that when combined with an instructional program in the other state, will result in the individual receiving substantially the same instruction as an individual who completes the 120 hour training in Wisconsin.

In addition, the new law allows for nurse aides to qualify for placement on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry based on training and hours of work experience completed as a nurse aide in another state.

An individual who has completed less than 120 hours of nurse aide training in another state is eligible for placement on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry provided the individual has:

- been employed in another state as a nurse aide for 2,088 hours or more within the prior 2-year period, and
- successfully completed a competency evaluation program in a state that has the same or substantially similar to the Wisconsin state competency evaluation.

These individuals will not be required to take a bridge training program or a competency evaluation.

If an individual has been employed as a nurse aide for 2,088 hours or more but has not completed a competency evaluation in a state that is the same or substantially similar to the Wisconsin evaluation, the individual will first need to pass the Wisconsin competency evaluation in order to be listed on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry and be eligible to work in Wisconsin. These individuals will also not be required to take the bridge training program.

A person transferring from another state must not provide "hands on" care in a facility until he or she has been placed on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry.

## **Action**

### *Phase 1*

The Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) is implementing the provisions regarding individuals with 2,088 hours of work experience as a nurse aide in another state. Applications from individuals who may qualify for the exceptions will be held until procedures are established to implement the provisions of the new law. DQA will issue a memo outlining the application process to accept out-of-state trained nurse aide employment history for placement on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry in the near future.

### *Phase 2*

Following implementation of the provisions regarding work experience, the Department will begin the rulemaking process to establish standards for the approval of "bridge" nurse aide training programs. The Department will form a stakeholder group to participate in the rulemaking process. The Department will issue a memo at that time with additional information.

## **Questions**

If you have questions about this information, please contact the Office of Caregiver Quality at (608) 261-8319 or [DHSCaregiverIntake@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSCaregiverIntake@wisconsin.gov).