



Nursing Facility Emergency Preparedness

Focused Care at Westwood

Results in Brief

Why OIG Conducted This Inspection

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General Audit and Inspections Division (OIG Inspections) conducted an inspection of Focused Care at Westwood (Focused Care), a skilled nursing facility.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General conducted a review of selected nursing facilities in Texas to evaluate compliance with life safety and emergency preparedness requirements. The report identified noncompliance with emergency preparedness requirements related to emergency preparedness plans, emergency supplies, emergency power, communication plans, and emergency preparedness plan training.

OIG Inspections initiated this inspection because of potential health and safety concerns caused by inadequate emergency preparedness programs at nursing facilities.

Summary of Review

The inspection objective was to determine whether Focused Care followed select state and federal requirements for emergency preparedness.

The inspection scope included Focused Care's (a) documentation of calendar year 2021 emergency preparedness training and testing and (b) emergency preparedness program in place as of May 2022.

Key Results

Focused Care at Westwood's (Focused Care) emergency preparedness plans and processes complied with 22 of 23 (95.7 percent) state and federal emergency preparedness requirements for nursing facilities reviewed as part of this inspection. Focused Care had an updated emergency preparedness (a) plan and (b) training and testing program. Focused Care also had updated procedures related to alternative power sources and subsistence needs for residents and staff. During a site visit to Focused Care's facility, inspectors saw multiple emergency preparedness elements, including a generator used as an alternate energy source and supplies for resident and staff subsistence.

However, Focused Care did not consistently comply with one emergency preparedness requirement. Specifically, Focused Care did not document required contact information in its communication plan for (a) the state licensing and certification agency, Texas Health and Human Services (HHS), and (b) the Texas HHS Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Recommendation

Focused Care should ensure its communication plan includes the required contact information for the Texas HHS Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the state licensing and certification agency.

For more information, contact: OIGInspectionsReports@hhs.texas.gov