



Nursing Facility Emergency Preparedness

Paradigm at Woodwind Lakes

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 Paradigm at Woodwind Lakes (Paradigm), 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.

Key Results

Paradigm at Woodwind Lakes' (Paradigm) emergency preparedness plans and processes complied with 20 of 23 (87 percent) state and federal emergency preparedness requirements for nursing facilities reviewed as part of this inspection. Paradigm had an updated emergency preparedness plan and a communication plan. Paradigm also had updated procedures related to alternative power sources and subsistence needs for residents and staff. During a site visit to Paradigm'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, Paradigm did not consistently comply with three emergency preparedness requirements. Specifically, Paradigm did not:

- Document initial employee training on emergency preparedness.
- Document all exercises or drills to test the emergency preparedness plan.
- Confirm review and update of the emergency preparedness training and testing program.

Summary of Review

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

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

Recommendations

Paradigm should:

- Ensure all employees complete emergency preparedness plan training within 30 days of assuming applicable job duties and maintain the completion documentation in each employee's file.
- Ensure it maintains documentation of exercises to test its emergency preparedness plan at least twice per year.
- Review and update its training and testing program at least annually and document the date it reviews and updates the program.

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