



Nursing Facility Emergency Preparedness

Arden Place of Houston

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 Arden Place of Houston (Arden Place), 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

Arden Place of Houston's (Arden Place) 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. Arden Place had an updated emergency preparedness (a) plan and (b) training and testing program. Arden Place also had updated procedures related to alternative power sources and subsistence needs for residents and staff. During a site visit to Arden Place'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, Arden Place did not consistently comply with three emergency preparedness requirements. Specifically, Arden Place did not:

- Document a risk assessment.
- Document exercises or drills to test the emergency preparedness plan.
- Document required contact information for the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman in its communication plan.

Summary of Review

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

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

Recommendations

Arden Place should ensure:

- Its emergency preparedness plan documents a risk assessment that utilizes an all-hazards approach.
- It maintains documentation of exercises to test the emergency preparedness plan as required.
- Its communication plan includes the required contact information for the Texas HHS Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

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