



Nursing Facility Staffing Hours Verification

Liberty Health Care Center

Results in Brief

Why OIG Conducted This Inspection

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

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General conducted a review of nursing facility staffing levels for 2018. The report revealed staffing levels varied considerably from day to day, which raised concerns some facilities may not fully meet the needs of their residents.

OIG Inspections initiated this inspection because of potential health and safety concerns caused by staffing shortages at nursing facilities.

Summary of Review

The inspection objective was to determine whether the direct care licensed nursing hours recorded at Liberty Health supported the hours reported to CMS in compliance with federal requirements.

The inspection scope covered the period from January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021.

Key Results

Liberty Health Care Center (Liberty Health) accurately reported direct care licensed nursing hours worked to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for 298 (61.8 percent) of the 482 payroll records reviewed as part of this inspection. However, Liberty Health (a) overreported some direct care licensed nursing hours worked due to not accounting for all required meal break deductions and (b) did not have processes to consistently report correct direct care licensed nursing hours worked by contract staff to CMS.

Recommendations

Liberty Health should:

- Ensure its electronic timekeeping system consistently deducts the correct time for required meal breaks when employees do not record their meal break time.
- Ensure direct care licensed nursing hours worked by contract staff are accurately and completely recorded and submitted to CMS through the Payroll-Based Journal.
- Implement a quality review process to ensure the direct care hours worked by contract staff are accurately reported to the Payroll-Based Journal as required by CMS.

Management Response

Liberty Health agreed with the inspection recommendations and indicated corrective actions had been fully implemented.

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