

To: Certified Nurse Aides, Nurse Aides, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Basic Care Facilities, and Hospitals

From: ND Department of Health and Human Services - CNA Registry

Date: February 21, 2024

Re: CNA Certification and Registration Changes

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services recently received clarification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) related to the federal requirements to become a Certified Nursing Aide (CNA). To comply with these federal requirements, the North Dakota Nurse Aide Registry will be implementing changes related to challenging the CNA exam.

Federal requirements do not allow an individual to challenge a CNA exam or to take the exam without having completed a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program (NATCEP). Sections [1819\(b\)\(5\)](#) and [1919\(b\)\(5\)](#) of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations at [§42 CFR 483 Subpart D](#) and [§42 CFR 483.35\(d\)](#) require that all individuals employed by a facility as nurse aides must have successfully completed a nurse aide training program. A nurse aide cannot take the competency evaluation program (the exam) without first having successfully completed a NATCEP (the training portion).

Effective July 1, 2024, all individuals seeking to become a CNA will be required to complete a state-approved nurse aide training and competency evaluation program before completing the exam.

In addition, the North Dakota Nurse Aide Registry is changing the process for determining expiration dates of CNA registrations. Expiration dates will be based on the date of initial registration plus two years with a renewal on a 2-year timeframe. Currently, expiration dates are based on the last date worked plus two years. Expiration dates will no longer be based on the last date worked.

If you have any questions, please contact the Nurse Aide Registry at naregistry@nd.gov or 701-328-2353.