



*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of Minnesotans*

Certified Mail # 7008 0150 0001 1713 6598

October 31, 2008

Debora Blomme, Administrator  
Touching Hearts Home Care  
1210 East College Drive Suite 800  
Marshall, MN 56258

Re: Results of State Licensing Survey

Dear Ms. Blomme:

The above agency was surveyed on September 19, 22, and 23, 2008, for the purpose of assessing compliance with state licensing regulations. State licensing deficiencies, if found, are delineated on the attached Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) correction order form. The correction order form should be signed and returned to this office when all orders are corrected. We urge you to review these orders carefully, item by item, and if you find that any of the orders are not in accordance with your understanding at the time of the exit conference following the survey, you should immediately contact me, or the RN Program Coordinator. If further clarification is necessary, I can arrange for an informal conference at which time your questions relating to the order(s) can be discussed.

A final version of the Licensing Survey Form is enclosed. This document will be posted on the MDH website.

Also attached is an optional Provider questionnaire, which is a self-mailer, which affords the provider with an opportunity to give feedback on the survey experience.

Please note, it is your responsibility to share the information contained in this letter and the results of this visit with the President of your facility's Governing Body.

Please feel free to call our office with any questions at (651) 201-4301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean M. Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean Johnston, Program Manager  
Case Mix Review Program

Enclosures

cc: Lyon County Social Services  
Ron Drude, Minnesota Department of Human Services  
Sherilyn Moe, Office of the Ombudsman

01/07 CMR3199

Division of Compliance Monitoring • Case Mix Review  
85 East 7th Place Suite, 220 • PO Box 64938 • St. Paul, MN 55164-0938 • 651-201-4301  
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Class A Licensed-Only Home Care Provider

LICENSING SURVEY FORM

Registered nurses from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) use this Licensing Survey Form during on-site visits to evaluate the care provided by Class A Licensed-Only Home Care Providers. Class A licensees may also use this form to monitor the quality of services provided to clients at any time. Licensees may use their completed Licensing Survey Form to help communicate with MDH nurses during an on-site regulatory visit.

During an on-site visit, MDH nurses will interview staff, clients and/or their representatives, make observations and review documentation. The survey is an opportunity for the licensee to describe to the MDH nurse what systems are in place to provide Class A Licensed-Only Home Care services. Completing this Licensing Survey Form in advance may facilitate the survey process.

Licensing requirements listed below are reviewed during a survey. A determination is made whether the requirements are met or not met for each Indicator of Compliance. This form must be used in conjunction with a copy of the Class A Licensed-Only Home Care regulations. Any violations of the Class A licensing requirements are noted at the end of the survey form.

Name of Class A Licensee: TOUCHING HEARTS HOME CARE

HFID #: 24577

Date(s) of Survey: September 19, 22, and 23, 2008

Project #: QL24577003

Indicators of Compliance	Outcomes Observed	Comments
<p>1. The provider accepts and retains clients for whom it can meet the needs.</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MN Rule 4668.0140</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MN Rule 4668.0050</li> <li>MN Rule 4668.0060 Subp. 3, 4 and 5</li> <li>MN Rule 4668.0180 Subp. 8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clients are accepted based on the availability of staff, sufficient in qualifications and numbers, to adequately provide the services agreed to in the service agreement.</li> <li>Service plans accurately describe the needs and services and contain all the required information.</li> <li>Services agreed to are provided Clients are provided referral assistance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Correction Order issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p>

Indicators of Compliance	Outcomes Observed	Comments
<p>2. The provider promotes client rights.</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0030</li> <li>• MN Statute §144A.44</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0040</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0170</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients’ are aware of and have their rights honored.</li> <li>• Clients’ are informed of and afforded the right to file a complaint.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Correction Order issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p>
<p>3. The provider promotes and protects each client’s safety, property, and well-being.</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Statutes §144A.46 Subd. 5(b)</li> <li>• MN Statute §626.556</li> <li>• MN Statutes §626.557</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0035</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client’s person, finances and property are safe and secure.</li> <li>• All criminal background checks are performed as required.</li> <li>• Clients are free from maltreatment.</li> <li>• There is a system for reporting and investigating any incidents of maltreatment.</li> <li>• Maltreatment assessments and prevention plans are accurate and current.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Correction Order issued</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p>
<p>4. The provider maintains and protects client records.</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0160</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p>[Note: See Informational Bulletin 99-11 for Class A variance for Electronically Transmitted Orders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Client records are maintained and retained securely.</b></li> <li>• <b>Client records contain all required documentation.</b></li> <li>• Client information is released only to appropriate parties.</li> <li>• Discharge summaries are available upon request.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met</p>

Indicators of Compliance	Outcomes Observed	Comments
<p>Non-compliance with this variance will result in a correction order issued under 4668.0016.]</p>		<p>___ Correction Order(s) issued            ___ Education Provided  <b>Follow-up Survey #</b> ___            ___ New Correction Order issued            ___ Education Provided</p>
<p>5. The provider employs and/or contracts with qualified and trained staff.</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0100</li> <li>• [Except Subp. 2]</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0065</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0060 Subp. 1</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0070</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0075</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0080</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0130</li> <li>• MN Statute §144A.45 Subd. 5</li> </ul> <p>[Note: See Informational Bulletin 99-7 for Class A variance in a Housing With Services Setting. Non-compliance with this variance will result in a correction order issued under 4668.0016.]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff, employed or contracted, have received all the required training.</li> <li>• Staff, employed or contracted, meet the Tuberculosis and all other infection control guidelines.</li> <li>• Personnel records are maintained and retained.</li> <li>• Licensee and all staff have received the required Orientation to Home Care.</li> <li>• Staff, employed or contracted, are registered and licensed as required by law.</li> <li>• Documentation of medication administration procedures are available.</li> <li>• Supervision is provided as required.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p>___ Met  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded            ___ Met            ___ Correction Order(s) issued            ___ Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> ___            ___ New Correction Order issued            ___ Education Provided</p>
<p>6. The provider obtains and keeps current all medication and treatment orders [if applicable].</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0150</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0100 Subp. 2</li> </ul> <p>[Note: See Informational Bulletin 99-7 and 04-12 for Class A variance in a Housing With Services setting with regards to medication administration, storage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medications and treatments administered are ordered by a prescriber.</li> <li>• Medications are properly labeled.</li> <li>• Medications and treatments are administered as prescribed.</li> <li>• Medications and treatments administered are documented.</li> <li>• Medications and treatments are renewed at least every three months.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p>___ Met            ___ Correction Order(s) issued            ___ Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p>___ Survey not Expanded            ___ Met  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correction Order(s) issued  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> ___            ___ New Correction</p>

Indicators of Compliance	Outcomes Observed	Comments
<p>and disposition. Non-compliance with this variance will result in a correction order issued under 4668.0016.]</p>		<p>Order issued                      ___ Education Provided</p>
<p>7. The provider is licensed and provides services in accordance with the license.</p> <p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0019</li> </ul> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0008 Subp. 3</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0012</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0060 Subp. 2 and 6</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0180</li> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0220</li> </ul> <p><small>Note: MDH will make referrals to the Attorney General's office for violations of MN Statutes 144D or 325F.72; and make other referrals, as needed.</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language requiring compliance with Home Care statutes and rules is included in contracts for contracted services.</li> <li>• License is obtained, displayed, and renewed.</li> <li>• Licensee's advertisements accurately reflect services available.</li> <li>• Licensee provides services within the scope of the license.</li> <li>• Licensee has a contact person available when a para-professional is working.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met                      ___ Correction Order(s) issued                      ___ Education Provided</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded                      ___ Met                      ___ Correction Order(s) issued                      ___ Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> ___                      ___ New Correction Order issued                      ___ Education Provided</p>
<p>8. The provider is in compliance with MDH waivers and variances.</p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Rule 4668.0016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensee provides services within the scope of applicable MDH waivers and variances</li> </ul>	<p><i>This area does not apply to a Focus Survey.</i></p> <p><b>Expanded Survey</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey not Expanded                      ___ Met                      ___ Correction Order(s) issued                      ___ Education Provided</p> <p><b>Follow-up Survey #</b> ___                      ___ New Correction Order issued                      ___ Education Provided</p>

***Please note: Although the focus of the licensing survey is the regulations listed in the Indicators of Compliance boxes above, other rules and statutes may be cited depending on what system a provider has or fails to have in place and/or the severity of a violation. The findings, of the focused survey may result in an expanded survey.***

**SURVEY RESULTS:** \_\_\_ All Indicators of Compliance listed above were met.

For Indicators of Compliance not met, the rule or statute numbers and the findings of deficient practice are noted below.

**1. MN Rule 4668.0065 Subp. 3****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 5**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to ensure annual infection control in-service training was provided for one of three employees' (B) records reviewed. The findings include:

Employee B was hired April of 2007 as a licensed direct care staff. There was no evidence of infection control training in her record. When interviewed, September 22, 2008, employee B indicated she had infection control training by the registered nurse. During an interview September 22, 2008, the registered nurse/administrator stated indicated she had not provided infection control training to employee B so she was unable to find any documentation of infection control training for her.

**2. MN Rule 4668.0100 Subp. 2****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 5**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to assure unlicensed staff was trained prior to providing assistance with medication for one of three employees' (C) records reviewed. The findings include:

Employee C was hired October of 2007 as a home health aide. Her job description included reminders to take medications. There was no documented training or competency in employee C's record for medication reminders or for medication assistance. When interviewed, September 22, 2008, employee C stated that she was trained for medication reminders by the previous registered nurse. Employee C stated her reminders included taking the pill box from the locked box at noon and bringing it to the client and then reminding the client to take her pills.

When interviewed, September 22, 2008, the registered nurse/ owner indicated that all her home health aides did received training on medication reminder by the registered nurse however she was unaware that the aides were providing assistance with medication administration.

**3. MN Rule 4668.0140 Subp. 1****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 1**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to ensure that a client's service agreement was authenticated by the licensee and the client or client's responsible party for one of two clients' (#1) records reviewed. The findings include:

Client #1's service agreement dated August of 2008 lacked authentication by the client or the client's responsible party. When interviewed September 19, 2008, the registered nurse/ administrator verified that client #1 service agreement lacked the signature.

**4. MN Rule 4668.0140 Subp. 2****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 1**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to provide a complete service agreement for one of two clients' (#2) records reviewed. The findings include:

Client #2's service agreement dated September of 2007 indicated that she received home health aide services 0-4 times daily. It did not indicate what services would be provided by the home health aide (HHA) or the frequency of supervision by the registered nurse.

When interviewed, September 22, 2008, the registered nurse /administrator confirmed the service agreement was not complete. She stated the detailed services were listed in the Home Health Certification and Plan of Care Form however there was no reference to these forms on the service agreement.

**5. MN Rule 4668.0150 Subp. 3****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 6**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to have a prescriber's order for medication for one of two clients' (#1) records reviewed who received medication administration. The findings include:

Client #1's daily nurse's worksheet dated September of 2008 indicated the client received Flintstone Vitamin 1 cc at 10:00a.m. There was no physician's order for this medication. When interviewed September 22, 2008, the licensed practical nurse confirmed the medication had been given since September 2, 2008 without a prescriber order.

**6. MN Rule 4668.0160 Subp. 5****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 4**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to have all entries in the client record signed and dated for one of two clients' (#1) records reviewed. The findings include:

Client #1 began receiving services August of 2008. Her client admission information record containing data on medical history, nursing assessment and vulnerable assessment was not authenticated with the date, name, and title of the person making the entries. When interviewed September 22, 2008, the registered nurse/ administrator confirmed the form was not signed or dated by the registered nurse that did the interview.

**7. MN Rule 4668.0160 Subp. 6****INDICATOR OF COMPLIANCE: # 4**

Based on record review and interview, the licensee failed to ensure that a discharge summary was completed following the discontinuation of services for one of one discharged client's (#2) record reviewed. The findings include:

Client #2 was discharged from the agency January of 2008. There was no discharge summary in the client's record. When interviewed September 22, 2008, the registered nurse/ administrator confirmed the discharge summary for client #2 had not been done.

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A draft copy of this completed form was left with Debora Blomme, RN/ Administrator, at an exit conference on September 23, 2008. Any correction order(s) issued as a result of the on-site visit and the final Licensing Survey Form will be sent to the licensee. If you have any questions about the Licensing Survey Form or the survey results, please contact the Minnesota Department of Health, (651) 201-4301. After review, this form will be posted on the MDH website. CLASS A Licensed-only Home Care Provider general information is available by going to the following web address and clicking on the Class A Home Care Provider link:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/profinfo/cms/casemix.html>

Regulations can be viewed on the Internet: <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/stats> (for MN statutes)  
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/> (for MN Rules).