

Technical Provisions

Summary

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Omnibus Policy bill contains several technical provisions pertaining to:

- Homeless Shelters Housing with Services Exemption;
- Occupational Therapy Practitioners and Physical Agent Modalities (PAM) Clarifications;
- Poison Control Center Request for Proposals (RFP) Modification; and
- Tuberculosis Infection Control Standards.

Background

Homeless Shelters Housing with Services

Exemption:

This proposal provides a statutory exemption for homeless shelters from the state's mandatory Uniform Consumer Information Guide requirements in the Housing with Services (HWS) registration statutes.

Currently, all HWS establishments must develop a guide that is provided to prospective clients for the purpose of enabling consumers to comparison shop between HWS establishments. Comparison shopping is not part of a homeless shelter client's process, and so the proposal exempts shelters from this requirement. Currently, MDH allows homeless shelters to bypass the requirement administratively.

Occupational Therapy Practitioners and Physical Agent Modalities Clarifications

This proposal clarifies current statutory requirements for the use of physical agent modalities by Occupational Therapy Practitioners (OTPs). Minnesota Statutes 148.6440 requires OTPs to submit documentation of training and obtain approval from the commissioner of health prior to using PAMs. This approval is separate from licensure as an occupational therapist (OT) or an occupational therapist assistant (OTA). While the PAMs documentation and approval requirements are the same for OTs and OTAs, the statute organization and wording has caused confusion.

Poison Control Center RFP Modification

This proposal eliminates the statutory requirement to solicit applications for the Minnesota Poison Control System every odd-numbered year. Minnesota statute allows contracts to be awarded for up to five years, and the change will allow MDH to award the Poison Control System grant for five years, dependent on successful performance and continued funding availability.

The proposal removes an administrative burden, since this is not a volatile grant program. The current grantee is the only certified poison control center in Minnesota, and has been funded for almost 30 years. In the last three grant cycles, the current grantee was the only bidder. Additionally, there is no administrative money associated with the

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program, so resources to conduct an RFP process every two years have to be taken from other program areas.

Tuberculosis Infection Control Standards

This proposal clarifies statutorily required standards for tuberculosis (TB) control in MDH regulated health facilities.

Currently, Minnesota rules for TB infection control and prevention within health care settings are outdated. The current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) TB Infection Control standards are industry best practices for the control of TB within health care settings. The MDH Tuberculosis Control Program staff has provided technical assistance to the health care industry in Minnesota to apply the current CDC standards in different facility settings. In 2009, MDH issued an Information Bulletin to its regulated facilities clarifying that facilities should follow the CDC standards. This proposal updates the statute to reflect current health facilities practices.