

State Rapid Response Investigative Public Report

Office of Health Facility Complaints

Maltreatment Report #: HL305969387M
Compliance #: HL305967123C

Date Concluded: January 12, 2024

Name, Address, and County of Licensee

Investigated:

Garden Court Chateau LLC
2495 SW 8th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Itasca County

Facility Type: Assisted Living Facility (ALF)

Evaluator's Name: Barbara Axness, RN
Special Investigator

Finding: Substantiated, facility responsibility

Nature of Investigation:

The Minnesota Department of Health investigated an allegation of maltreatment, in accordance with the Minnesota Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults Act, Minn. Stat. 626.557, and to evaluate compliance with applicable licensing standards for the provider type.

Initial Investigation Allegation(s):

The facility neglected the resident when the nurse failed to reassess the resident after he fell and reported ten out of ten pain for two days. Facility staff failed to immediately report the fall and the increasing complaints of pain to the nurse. The resident was diagnosed with a femur fracture and required surgery.

Investigative Findings and Conclusion:

The Minnesota Department of Health determined neglect was substantiated. The facility was responsible for the maltreatment. The resident was lowered to the floor during a staff-assisted transfer and later complained of severe pain. The resident was not assessed following the incident, as facility staff did not report the incident or the resident's complaints of pain to the registered nurse (RN) until the next day. The RN was notified of concerns by the resident's family the next day when they questioned why the resident was still in bed at noon and complaining of pain. The resident was sent to the hospital for further evaluation 17 hours after the initial fall, where he was diagnosed with a femur fracture that required surgical repair.

The investigator conducted interviews with facility staff members, including administrative staff, nursing staff, and unlicensed staff. The investigation included review of employee training records, facility policies and procedures, resident medical records, and emergency room records. At the time of the onsite visit, the investigator observed transfers in the facility.

The resident resided in an assisted living facility. The resident had a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis (a chronic inflammatory disease that affects the joints, resulting in painful joints, swelling, and stiffness in the joints). The resident's record lacked a signed service plan. The resident's assessment indicated the resident used adaptive equipment to transfer. The resident had a specialized walker and required the assist of two staff and a T-belt (gait belt) to transfer. The resident was noted to drive his motorized wheelchair into the bathroom and use his specialized walker, with assistance from staff, to transfer onto the toilet.

One evening, the resident was lowered to the floor during a staff-assisted transfer from the toilet to his wheelchair. No documentation was completed at the time of the incident.

The following day, a progress note was entered in the resident's medical record which detailed the registered nurse (RN) was notified of "an incident last night resulting in right leg/knee pain." The RN was notified after unlicensed personnel (ULP) reported the resident was still in bed at noon, due to increased pain in his right knee. The RN interviewed the resident who reported he lost his balance during a staff-assisted transfer and a staff member's knee went into his knee. The resident reported his pain level was a nine out of ten and Tylenol and an ice pack were administered. The resident declined further evaluation.

A few hours later, the resident's family came to the facility and voiced concern when the resident was still in bed. The resident's family spoke with the nurse and the resident was transferred to the hospital for further evaluation. The resident's emergency room records indicated the resident was diagnosed with an acute distal femoral (thighbone) fracture which required surgical repair. The resident was admitted to the hospital and did not return to the facility.

A facility incident report was completed later that day. The incident report indicated the resident was lowered to the floor last night at 7:15 p.m., after he lost his balance during a transfer from the toilet to his wheelchair. The incident report indicated the resident was unable to bear weight, his legs gave out, and he was lowered to the ground. The resident was given "Tylenol at 2:07 a.m. for pain in right leg and feet rating ten out of ten." The incident report indicated the physician was not notified as "at time of the accident, deviation in standard protocol occurred in that the direct caregivers did not notify an RN of the witnessed near miss." The RN was not notified until noon the following day. The resident's family was not immediately notified. The incident report further indicated the "standard is to notify an RN of all accidents/near miss lowered to floor."

The facility completed an internal investigation to review the incident. Internal investigation documentation included screenshots of text messages between the RN and the temporary staff unlicensed personnel (ULP) #1 who was working at the time of the incident. The text messages indicated ULP #1 did not feel the resident fell, as he was lowered to the floor, and required herself and four other staff members to get off the floor. ULP #1 wrote she took the resident's vitals, informed a facility ULP (ULP #2) of the resident's knee pain, and was told ULP #2 would give that information to the RN. A written statement from ULP #2 indicated she was given the resident's vitals, put the note in her pocket, and told ULP #1 she "would get ahold of a RN." ULP #2 wrote the night was a busy night and several tasks were not completed. ULP #2 wrote she checked on the resident overnight and he reported his right leg hurt and requested pain medications. ULP #2 gave the resident Tylenol and put Vick's vapor rub on the resident's leg. Written statements from additional ULP involved with the incident, indicated they received conflicting information on if the incident was a fall and whether it should be reported to the nurse.

ULP #1 was a temporary agency staff employee. The facility did not have an employee file for ULP #1, and no documentation was available to verify if ULP #1 was trained on how to transfer the resident or informed on how to report falls or other incidents to the RN.

During an interview, the resident's family member indicated they were not notified of the resident's fall or complaints of pain. The resident's family member came to the facility around noon the next day because it was the resident's birthday, and he was having a party. The family member was surprised to see the resident was still in bed when they arrived, as that was not normal for him. The family member noticed he had an ice pack on his knee and complained of severe pain. The family member spoke with the RN and told her the resident needed to go to the emergency room but instead of immediately calling for an ambulance, the RN left and administered a treatment to another resident for about 20 minutes. The family member stated she was concerned about what would have happened if she hadn't come in that day, since there was no incident report created and neither the family, nor the physician, were updated.

During an interview, the clinical nurse supervisor (CNS) stated the resident used a specialized walker and had a specific way he used the walker to get on the toilet. The CNS stated given the complexity of the transfer and the use of the specialized walker, she care-planned for two staff to transfer the resident. The CNS confirmed the facility's process was not followed and the RN should have been notified immediately after the resident was lowered to the floor and when the resident reported severe pain. The CNS stated she previously informed ownership that temporary ULP would have to be trained and since she did not have direct supervision of the ULP, the facility owners informed her they would handle it.

During an interview, the RN stated when the resident fell, she was working full time as the nurse manager. The RN indicated the facility was very short staffed at the time and many of her hours were spent working as a ULP. The RN stated the ULP who helped with the transfer was a temporary/agency employee who was not trained on how to transfer the resident with his

specialized walker. The RN stated she did not supervise the ULP, as that was the responsibility of the owners. The RN stated she was working on the floor as a ULP the morning after the resident fell and had come into the facility around 8 or 9 a.m. Staff did not tell her about the fall until around 11:00 a.m. when they reported the resident didn't want to get out of bed due to pain. The resident rated his pain a "ten out of ten" and she was concerned as the resident usually did not report high pain levels. The RN called the CNS to get more information since there was not an incident report or any notes about why the resident was in such severe pain. The RN stated about 30-40 minutes later, while she was trying to figure out what happened, the resident's family came in and began asking questions. The family agreed to send the resident to the emergency room. The resident was diagnosed with a fracture and did not return to the facility. The RN stated she did not know why staff did not immediately report the fall or why they didn't tell her when she came in the next morning.

In conclusion, the Minnesota Department of Health determined neglect was substantiated.

Substantiated: Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, Subdivision 19.

"Substantiated" means a preponderance of evidence shows that an act that meets the definition of maltreatment occurred.

Neglect: Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, subdivision 17

Neglect means neglect by a caregiver or self-neglect.

(a) "Caregiver neglect" means the failure or omission by a caregiver to supply a vulnerable adult with care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is:

- (1) reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult; and
- (2) which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct.

Vulnerable Adult interviewed: Attempts to interview were unsuccessful.

Family/Responsible Party interviewed: Yes.

Alleged Perpetrator interviewed: Not Applicable

Action taken by facility:

The facility investigated the incident and retrained staff on nurse notification procedures.

Action taken by the Minnesota Department of Health:

The responsible party will be notified of their right to appeal the maltreatment finding.

The facility was found to be in noncompliance. To view a copy of the Statement of Deficiencies and/or correction orders, please visit:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/directory/provcompselect.html>

If you are viewing this report on the MDH website, please see the attached Statement of Deficiencies.

You may also call 651-201-4200 to receive a copy via mail or email

cc:

The Office of Ombudsman for Long Term Care

The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Itasca County Attorney

Grand Rapids City Attorney

Grand Rapids Police Department

Minnesota Board of Executives for Long Term Services and Supports

Minnesota Board of Nursing

Minnesota Department of Health

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION		(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 30596	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING: _____ B. WING _____		(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED C 12/26/2023
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER GARDEN COURT CHATEAU		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 2495 SW 8TH STREET GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)	ID PREFIX TAG	PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION (EACH CORRECTIVE ACTION SHOULD BE CROSS-REFERENCED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEFICIENCY)		(X5) COMPLETE DATE
0 000	Initial Comments *****ATTENTION***** ASSISTED LIVING PROVIDER CORRECTION ORDER In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 144G.08 to 144G.95, these correction orders are issued pursuant to a complaint investigation. Determination of whether a violation is corrected requires compliance with all requirements provided at the statute number indicated below. When a Minnesota Statute contains several items, failure to comply with any of the items will be considered lack of compliance. INITIAL COMMENTS: #HL305969387M/HL305967123C On December 26, 2023, the Minnesota Department of Health conducted a complaint investigation at the above provider, and the following correction orders are issued. At the time of the complaint investigation, there were 23 residents receiving services under the provider's Assisted Living license. The following immediate correction order is issued. Correction orders with a period to correct that are not immediate may be issued at a later date during the investigation. The following immediate correction order was issued on December 27, 2023, for #HL305969387M/HL305967123C, tag identification 1350. Immediacy was removed on December 29, 2023, however noncompliance remains at a scope and severity of F.	0 000	Minnesota Department of Health is documenting the State Correction Orders using federal software. Tag numbers have been assigned to Minnesota State Statutes for Assisted Living License Providers. The assigned tag number appears in the far left column entitled "ID Prefix Tag." The state Statute number and the corresponding text of the state Statute out of compliance is listed in the "Summary Statement of Deficiencies" column. This column also includes the findings which are in violation of the state requirement after the statement, "This Minnesota requirement is not met as evidenced by." Following the surveyors' findings is the Time Period for Correction. PLEASE DISREGARD THE HEADING OF THE FOURTH COLUMN WHICH STATES,"PROVIDER'S PLAN OF CORRECTION." THIS APPLIES TO FEDERAL DEFICIENCIES ONLY. THIS WILL APPEAR ON EACH PAGE. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT A PLAN OF CORRECTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF MINNESOTA STATE STATUTES. The letter in the left column is used for tracking purposes and reflects the scope and level issued pursuant to 144G.31 subd. 1, 2, and 3.		

Minnesota Department of Health

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

(X6) DATE

Minnesota Department of Health

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0 000	Continued From page 1	0 000			
0 430 SS=C	The following correction order is issued/orders are issued for #HL305969387M/HL305967123C, tag identification 0430, 0470, 0620, 2320, 2360. 144G.40 Subd. 2 Uniform checklist disclosure of services (a) All assisted living facilities must provide to prospective residents: (1) a disclosure of the categories of assisted living licenses available and the category of license held by the facility; (2) a written checklist listing all services permitted under the facility's license, identifying all services the facility offers to provide under the assisted living facility contract, and identifying all services allowed under the license that the facility does not provide; and (3) an oral explanation of the services offered under the contract. (b) The requirements of paragraph (a) must be completed prior to the execution of the assisted living contract. (c) The commissioner must, in consultation with all interested stakeholders, design the uniform checklist disclosure form for use as provided under paragraph (a). This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: Based on interview and record review, the licensee failed to ensure the uniform checklist disclosure of services (UDALSA) accurately reflected services provided by the licensee. This had the potential to affect all residents. This practice resulted in a level one violation (a violation that has no potential to cause more than a minimal impact on the resident and does not	0 430			

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0 430	Continued From page 2 affect health or safety) and was issued at a widespread scope (when problems are pervasive or represent a systemic failure that has affected or has the potential to affect a large portion or all the residents). The findings include: On December 26, 2023, at 2:15 p.m., two assisted living director licenses were observed near the entry way door. One license was for licensed assisted living director (LALD)-B, and the other was for registered nurse (RN)-I. RN-I's assisted living director license expired October 31, 2023. A review of the Board of Executives for Long-Term Services and Supports website on December 26, 2023, at 2:46 p.m., indicated RN-I's LALD license was expired and had not been renewed. The licensee's UDALSA, dated May 7, 2023, indicated an assisted living director was on site both full and part time. On December 26, 2023, at 2:40 p.m., licensed assisted living director (LALD)-B stated RN-I obtained her license so she could assist her with various tasks. LALD-B stated RN-I was only casual status and worked limited hours per pay period and mostly performed nursing related duties. LALD-B confirmed RN-I's license was expired and was not aware it had expired. On December 26, 2023, at 4:05 p.m., clinical nurse supervisor (CNS)- stated LALD-B did not work full time in the facility. On December 27, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., registered	0 430			

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0 430	Continued From page 3 nurse (RN)-H stated LALD-B works maybe 20 to 30 hours in the facility each week. RN-H stated RN-I only worked casual hours and did not have a set schedule. RN-H stated RN-I only worked remotely and did not come into the facility. On December 27, 2023, at 1:45 p.m., owner (O)-C stated, "I don't know how many hours she [LALD-B] works there a week. It's not like 40 hours a week, I don't think. But she does a lot of stuff like decorating the Christmas tree, putting up decorations, she goes in and cooks sometimes, if someone doesn't show up she might go in and do nails for someone." No further information was provided. TIME PERIOD FOR CORRECTION: Twenty-One (21) days	0 430			
0 470 SS=F	144G.41 Subdivision 1 Minimum requirements (11) develop and implement a staffing plan for determining its staffing level that: (i) includes an evaluation, to be conducted at least twice a year, of the appropriateness of staffing levels in the facility; (ii) ensures sufficient staffing at all times to meet the scheduled and reasonably foreseeable unscheduled needs of each resident as required by the residents' assessments and service plans on a 24-hour per day basis; and (iii) ensures that the facility can respond promptly and effectively to individual resident emergencies and to emergency, life safety, and disaster situations affecting staff or residents in the facility; (12) ensure that one or more persons are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, who are responsible for responding to the	0 470			

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0 470	Continued From page 4 requests of residents for assistance with health or safety needs. Such persons must be: (i) awake; (ii) located in the same building, in an attached building, or on a contiguous campus with the facility in order to respond within a reasonable amount of time; (iii) capable of communicating with residents; (iv) capable of providing or summoning the appropriate assistance; and (v) capable of following directions; This MN Requirement is not met as evidenced by: Based on interview and record review, the licensee failed to ensure the clinical nurse supervisor (CNS) developed and implemented a staffing plan to determine staffing levels to meet the needs of all residents. This had the potential to affect all residents, staff, and visitors. This practice resulted in a level two violation (a violation that did not harm a resident's health or safety but had the potential to have harmed a resident's health or safety) and was issued at a widespread scope (when problems are pervasive or represent a systemic failure that has affected or has the potential to affect a large portion or all of the residents). The findings include: The licensee held an assisted living facility license and was licensed for a capacity of 24 residents, with a census of 23 residents. Throughout the course of the investigation, the licensee's staffing plan was requested by the MDH investigator on four separate occasions.	0 470			

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0 470	Continued From page 5 During observations on December 26, 2023, unlicensed personnel (ULP)-J stated they were currently short-staffed and she was having difficulty finding another ULP to help her with a transfer. ULP-J stated she was going to be working a double (16 hour) shift today. ULP-J stated it was not uncommon to work short-staffed. Staffing hours posted in the kitchen of the facility for December 26, 2023, indicated only one ULP was scheduled for the overnight shift and the second overnight shift was open. The day shift posting indicated a float ULP and ULP on the north end were working but the shift for a ULP on the south end was open. The evening shift posting indicated a float ULP and a ULP on the north end were scheduled but the shift for a ULP on the south end was open. On December 26, 2023, at 2:10 p.m., licensed assisted living director (LALD)-B was asked about the facility's staffing plan and how staffing is determined. LALD-B described how many staff they schedule per shift. LALD-B was asked how they determined sufficient staffing was in place or what metrics were used to determine staffing was appropriate. LALD-B stated the facility was currently doing two admissions today and one more later this week and the facility would then be at 100% occupancy. LALD-B was asked if the facility had considered limiting admissions until staffing could stabilize. LALD-B stated "You still need money to pay extra bonuses, you can't have five empty beds."LALD-B was asked about staff working double shifts or additional hours and LALD-B stated "the ones really putting forth a lot of time, they really don't mind doing it. I've found I can leave a note that beds need to be ready and that's never done. If we have more empty beds,	0 470			

