

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
April 29, 1997

SPECIAL CARE REGULATIONS

The Developmental Disabilities Act of 1996 authorized DDMHS to adopt regulations governing special health care procedures performed in community settings. The purpose is to develop guidelines for training and supervision of caregivers who perform health care procedures for individuals who live in private homes.

Examples of special care procedures are diabetes monitoring and care, gastrostomy feeding, and suctioning.

DDS staff and a committee of community nurses from throughout the state developed proposed guidelines, which were reviewed last month with the Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing made a number of suggestions for increased nursing oversight of the procedures. DDS staff will have a follow-up meeting in May with the Board of Nursing.

When complete, the regulations will provide standards to assure that caregivers who are not nurses have sufficient training and monitoring to be safe in carrying out special care procedures for a particular individual they are supporting. These regulations are intended to prevent nursing home admissions or costly round-the-clock nursing care where a home care provider can be taught to carry out a special care procedure.

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