

Developmental Disabilities Program Policy and Procedures Manual		Control# 01.03.912
Volume 1: Program Administration	section 3: Developmental Disabilities Program Policies	
	subject: CPR Certification Policy	

I. Purpose

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency procedure involving external cardiac massage and artificial respiration. It is the first treatment for anyone who has collapsed, has no pulse and has probably stopped breathing. Performing CPR can prevent death or brain damage by restoring blood circulation. Rescue breathes force oxygen into the victim’s lungs and chest compressions using the correct technique help maintain blood circulation. Having a CPR Certification from the American Heart Association or the Red Cross is a nationally recognized way of saving lives. The purpose of this policy is to specify the certification process and timelines the Developmental Disabilities Program requires for service provider support staff to become trained and certified in CPR.

II. Scope

Research indicates that there is less than five minutes following a cardiac arrest to intervene successfully. Emergency services are usually more than five minutes away. Therefore, life saving procedures must be administered quickly and effectively by trained bystanders. Increasing survival rates and reducing fatalities caused by cardiac arrest is the core of CPR training and certification. This applies to all providers of Developmental Disabilities Services and their staff, who upon receiving training, are expected to use their CPR skills when an individual requires cardiac resuscitation.

III. CPR Guidelines

There are a number of different causes for cardiac arrest, for example: shock, drowning, or auto accident. Regardless of the cause you never know when someone may suffer cardiac arrest. Without a bystander to perform CPR an individual has a very slim chance of survival. If you are alone when the incident occurs you should always call 911 for emergency services before beginning CPR. If you are not alone and there is another person who can call for emergency services (911), begin administering CPR immediately while the call for medical support is made.

- A. Direct Care Staff are not considered bystanders, they are paid caregivers and therefore the Good Samaritan Law does not apply.

IV. CPR Certification Requirements

Developmental Disabilities Program Provider Direct Care Staff are required to be trained in CPR, 30 calendar days from the date of hire, as written in the Comprehensive 0208, 0371 (Community Supports) Waivers and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Full certification must be completed 120 days from

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the date of hire for staff who provide the following services: Day Habilitation, Residential Habilitation, Supported Employment, Adult Companion, Residential Training Support, Personal Care and Social Leisure Recreation.

A. Training And Certification Methodology

Initial training may consist of a video demonstrating CPR techniques or a on-line resource that details CPR techniques, for example AARP has a website with a free Video. Training must be within 30 calendar days of hire, with a full CPR certification within 120 days from the date of hire with a certified first aid and CPR instructor, or on-line through the following on-line programs: CPR Today, International CPR Institute, American Health Care Academy and Medic First Aid Health and Safety Institute. If an individual elects to train on-line, within 12 months from the date of the on-line CPR certification, the individual must enroll in a classroom course where they receive training from an on-site certified instructor, who provides skill assessment and hands on-training. Courses are available throughout the state of Montana and are provided at colleges, clinics and medical centers. The classroom course must be accredited by either the Red Cross or the American Heart Association. This training modality is highly recommended and sanctioned by the Developmental Disabilities Program.

1. The American Red Cross provides “train the trainer” courses which may be utilized by Developmental Disabilities Providers. On-line instructor courses are available through the Red Cross and approved by the Developmental Disabilities Program.
2. Certification is for a two year period. CPR Certification must be renewed at least every two years. Refresher courses every 6 months are recommended and are considered a best practice. Studies show that knowledge retention rates are low and most people have forgotten the basic cardiac pulmonary resuscitation knowledge within a year of passing the test.

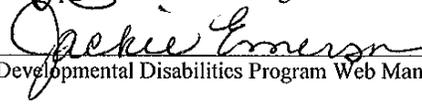
B. Certification Renewal

CPR renewal may be completed on-line via a computer, as long as the individual applying for certification renewal has participated in an on-site course with a certified instructor prior to the renewal date. The On-line CPR certification courses approved by the Developmental Disabilities Program for certification renewal are: Pro CPR, CPR Today, International CPR Institute, American Health Care Academy and Medic First Aid Health and Safety Institute.

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 Developmental Disabilities Program Director 9-28-11
 Date


 Developmental Disabilities Program Web Manager 9/28/11
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