

March 5, 2026, Nursing Home (NH) Winter Forum Q & As

TB Requirements

Q1. How do we access Dear Provider Letters (DPL)?

DPL link: [Administrator Letters](#). The screenshot below will show on your computer screen. You can select provider and year. The letters will load after the selection. The letters go back to calendar year 2001. You can also access other program DPLs from the same site: assisted living facilities, adult family homes, enhanced service facilities, certified community residential support services, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

AL TSA Provider/Administrator Letters

Subscribe to GoDelivery! By doing so, you will receive an email link to topics of interest as soon as they are posted.

[Access the archive from calendar years 2014 and prior](#)

Provider Type

Select the type of provider letter

Year

Select the year

Subject

Enter a keyword to search by subject

Apply

Provider Type	Letter	Date	Subject	Status	Number
NH	026-010	03/12/2026	QSSAM-26-02-ALL -Sprinkler system requirement in existing high-rise buildings	Current	
NH	026-009	02/26/2026	Submission of Plans of Correction And Informal Dispute Resolution Requests	Current	

Sign up instructions to receive DPLs: [Washington Department of Social and Health Services – Home and Community Living Administration](#). If you are not signed up to receive DPLs, select this website. The screenshot on the next page will show on your computer screen. The Department will ask you to read and review its **Wireless Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy**.



Email Updates

To sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences, please enter your contact information below.

For SMS: Message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help, STOP to cancel. To view terms and conditions, visit

<http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADSHSALTA/text-message>. Message frequency may vary.

Subscription Type

Email Address *

Facility-Reported Incidents (FRIs) Uploads

Q2. Is there a project assessing the communication portals data handling capability for sending investigations, (FRIs), plans of correction (POC) documents, or other paper-originated documents to state agency (SA) reviewers? Currently NH staff send small batches in multiple bundles of pages of information to participate in an offsite review of documentation.

Thank you for your question and inquiry. Providers have shared with Residential Care Services (RCS) the upload file size is challenging. Based on this feedback received early in the 2025 FRI pilot, RCS increased the upload file size. For the portal, RCS asks providers to upload their documents in portable document form (PDF). This is a reliable way to upload and share documents. It preserves layout, fonts, and images as an open standard ideal for secure, consistent document sharing and printing.

Nursing home providers can upload PDF in the “Online Incident Report” (OIR) portal for initial and five working days follow-up reporting for any FRI. The Department added document upload functions to initial and follow-up reporting screens. Provide as much information as possible at the time of reporting and uploading. The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid “Exhibit 358” Initial Report and “Exhibit 359” Follow-Up Investigation Report are recommended documents to upload. Below are the links for these exhibits. The Department formatted the exhibits so providers can download them, enter information, and upload into OIR at the time of reporting. Save the exhibits and any other documents uploaded as PDFs. Links: [Provider Guide](#) | [Exhibit 358](#) | [Exhibit 359](#).

Submitting exhibit forms is less volume than submitting large facility files.

Department IT staff are assessing again portal data handling. IT reports, the larger the file size enhancement, the slower the upload speed and may result in an unsuccessful upload. They will see if there is any work around solution.

Providers are to submit POCs through iQIES. Documents uploaded in the Online Incident Reporting portal are for FRIs.

Q3. Will there be a Dear Administrator Letter coming about the changes in FRI reporting by NHs, including expectations and timelines? Is the current model the expectation for the foreseeable future?

RCS is reviewing recent CMS correspondence, QSO-23-03-NH, about CMS Chapter 5 State Operation Manual complaint and FRI investigations updates and deciding what guidance to provider RCS staff and providers to implement the revisions.

Q4. If a resident selects to exercise their right within the Death with Dignity Act, is the facility required to notify RCS, either before or after?

Reference Dear Provider Letter HCLA: NH #2025-063 WA STATE DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT (DWDA) – IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN NURSING HOMES (NH) that RCS distributed December 18, 2025. There is no mandatory notification to the Department before or after a resident acts under the DWDA.

Law and Regulation

- [Washington Death with Dignity Act- Chapter 70.245 RCW](#) (statute)
- [Death with Dignity Act Requirements- Chapter 246-978 WAC](#) (regulation)

The Department of Health has a website with frequently asked questions about the DWDA: <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/health-statistics/death-dignity-act/frequently-asked-questions-about-death-dignity#:~:text=pharmacists%20from%20participating?-.Yes.,prohibiting%20provider's%20policy%20regarding%20participation>. One of the questions notes the attending qualified medical provider must submit the completed [Attending Qualified Medical Provider After Death Reporting form \(DOH 422-068\)](#) **within 30 calendar days** of a qualified patient's ingestion of lethal medication obtained under the terms of the act, or death from any other cause, whichever comes first. If the attending qualified medical provider is permitted by law to dispense medication and does so under the Act, they must also submit a copy of the [Pharmacy Dispensing Record Form \(DOH 422-067\)](#) within 30 calendar days of dispensing medication.