

Notification

**Certified Home Health Agencies (CHHAs) &
Long Term Home Health Care Programs (LTHHCPs)**

The Department continues to be concerned about vulnerable individuals who may be at risk of serious harm due to Hurricane Sandy. Particularly, we want to ensure that individuals who receive home care are able to receive appropriate care throughout the emergency. Executive Order No. 72, signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo on November 11, 2012 authorizes a waiver to allow some flexibility for specific requirements to facilitate provision of safe care during this emergency period. This waiver is time limited and dependent on the duration of the emergency situation and applies only to agencies providing services in Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester counties. Executive Order No. 72 can be found at: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/sl2/ExecutiveOrderindex>.

Requirements have been temporarily modified as follows:

- The requirement for in home supervision of home health aides and personal care aides at the initial service visit may be conducted as soon as practicable.
- The time frame for the initial patient visit to be made within 24 hours of receipt and acceptance of a community referral or return home from institutional placement is extended to within 48 hours.
- The time frame that requires medical orders to be signed by the authorized practitioner is extended to 60 days.

Agencies should continue to work to deliver appropriate care and facilitate continuity of care for individuals in need of home care. If you have any questions regarding the delivery of home care services during this emergency, please contact the New York State Hurricane Sandy Healthcare Provider Hotline at 1-866-544-1303. Thank you for your continued cooperation and tireless work in serving your patients and New York in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.