



National Certification Council for Activity Professionals

Enriching Lives Through Person-Centered Engagement

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ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS AS ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL

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It is the formal position of the Board of NCCAP that Activity Professionals fall within the definition of “Essential Personnel” within the setting of a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF).

The primary rationale for this position is that Activity Professionals, while not mandated to maintain licensure, are required to follow and comply with Federal Regulations.

Specifically, FTAGS 679, 680 and 741 include formal requirements of daily practice with which Activity Professionals must comply in the delivery of the Social Model of Care.

Summarizing the salient points from applicable FTAG language:

- FTAG 679

The SNF **must** provide activities to meet and support the physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident.

- FTAG 680

The activities program **must** be directed by a qualified professional.

- FTAG 741

The SNF **must** have sufficient staff who provide direct services to residents to assure resident safety and attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental and psychosocial well-being of each resident.

Further, the Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Improving Quality in Long-Term Care (Wunderlich GS, Kohler PO. Washington (DC): National Academies Press; 2001) states:

“Provision of formal long-term care to the population requires an adequate, skilled, and diverse work force. Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants or aides and home health aides represent the largest component of personnel in long-term care. Other professionals - including physicians, social workers, therapists (physical, occupational, and speech), mental health providers, dietitians, pharmacists, podiatrists, and dentists - provide many different kinds of **essential** services to at least a subset of those using long-term care. Non-professionals, who provide the majority of personal care services, such as assistance with eating or bathing, have a major impact on both the health status and the quality of life of long-term care users. In addition to direct care providers (or caregivers), administrative, food service workers, housekeeping staff, and other personnel play **essential** roles in long-term care.”

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