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**CHAPTER 30: PERSONAL CARE SERVICES**

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**SECTION 30.8: LT-PCS - RECORD KEEPING****PAGE(S) 4**

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## **RECORD KEEPING**

### **Components of Record Keeping**

All provider records must be maintained in an accessible, standardized order and format at the enrolled office site in the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) administrative region where the recipient resides. The provider must have sufficient space, facilities and supplies to ensure effective record keeping. The provider must keep sufficient records to document compliance with LDH requirements for the recipient served and the provision of services.

A separate record must be maintained on each recipient that supports justification for prior authorization and fully documents services for which payments have been made. The provider must maintain sufficient documentation to enable LDH, or its designee, to verify that prior to payment each charge is due and proper. The provider must make available all records that LDH, or its designee, finds necessary to determine compliance with any federal or state law, rule or regulation promulgated by LDH.

### **Recipient Records**

Providers must have a separate written record for each recipient served by the agency. It is the responsibility of the service provider to accurately document services thereby conveying an on-going chronology of activities undertaken on behalf of the recipient. Services provided must clearly be related to the services documented in the recipient's plan of care (POC).

The organization of individual recipient records and location of documents within the record must be consistent among all records. Records must be appropriately thinned so that current material can be easily located in the record.

All entries and forms completed by staff in recipient records must be legible, written in ink and include the following:

- The name of the person making the entry;
- The signature of the person making the entry;
- The functional title of the person making the entry;
- The full date of documentation; and
- Reviewed and signed by the supervisor, if required.

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**CHAPTER 30: PERSONAL CARE SERVICES**

---

**SECTION 30.8: LT-PCS - RECORD KEEPING****PAGE(S) 4**

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Any error made by the staff in a recipient's record must be corrected using the legal method which is to draw a line through the incorrect information, write "error" by it and initial the correction. Correction fluid or correction tape must never be used in a recipient's record.

**Records at the Recipient's Home**

Providers must maintain the following documents at the recipient's home:

- A **current** copy of the recipient's POC; and
- Copies of the recipient's service logs for the most **recent two week period**.

**NOTE:** A copy of the "Log of Weekly Services/Supports & Daily Progress Notes", along with instructions for using and completing this form, can be found in Appendix D.

In the event that LDH, or its designee, notices irregularities in documentation, the records may be seized, copied and returned to the recipient's home.

**Service Logs**

Service logs are the "paper trail" for services delivered and must clearly reflect the services provided and billed. Federal requirements for documenting claims require the following information be entered on the service log to provide a clear audit trail:

- Name of recipient;
- Name of provider and employee providing the service;
- Service agency contact telephone number;
- Date of service contact;
- Start and stop time of service contact; and
- Content of service contact.

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**CHAPTER 30: PERSONAL CARE SERVICES**

---

**SECTION 30.8: LT-PCS - RECORD KEEPING****PAGE(S) 4**

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Service logs may be reviewed by the supervisor (if applicable) to ensure that all activities are appropriate in terms of the nature and time, and that documentation is sufficient.

**NOTE:** While the service log must be completed daily, the section titled “Daily Services/Supports Descriptions and Comments” beginning on page 2 of the Long Term Personal Care Services (LT-PCS) Log does not need to be completed every day. Providers must use this section to document why assistance with a certain activity/task was not provided or why assistance with an activity differed from the POC.

### **Availability of Records**

Providers must make recipient and personnel records available to LDH its designee, and/or other state and federal agencies, upon request. The provider shall be responsible for incurring the cost of copying records for LDH or its designee.

### **Confidentiality and Protection of Records**

Records, including administrative and recipient, must be the property of the provider and secured against loss, tampering, destruction or unauthorized use. Providers and their employees must not directly or indirectly disclose or knowingly permit the disclosure of any information concerning the agency, the recipients or their families to any unauthorized person. The provider must safeguard the confidentiality of any information which may identify the recipient or his/her family. Confidential information shall only be released under the following conditions:

- Court order;
- Recipient’s written informed consent for release of information;
- Written consent of the individual to whom the recipient’s rights have been devolved when the recipient has been declared legally incompetent; or
- Compliance with the Federal Law, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patients Records (42 CFR, Part 2).

A provider must, upon request, make available information in the case records to the recipient or legally responsible representative. If it is felt in the professional judgment of the administration of the provider agency that the information contained in the record would be damaging to the recipient, that information may be withheld from the recipient except under court order.

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**CHAPTER 30: PERSONAL CARE SERVICES**

---

**SECTION 30.8: LT-PCS - RECORD KEEPING****PAGE(S) 4**

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The provider may charge a reasonable fee for providing the above records. This fee cannot exceed the community's competitive copying rate.

A provider may use material from case records for teaching or research purposes, development of the governing body's understanding and knowledge of the provider's services, or similar educational purposes, if names are deleted and other similar identifying information is disguised or deleted.

**NOTE: Under no circumstances should providers allow staff to remove recipient records from the office.**

**Retention of Records**

The agency must retain administrative, personnel and recipient records for whichever of the following time frames is longer:

- Until records are audited and all audit questions are answered; **OR**
- Six years from the date of the last payment period.

**NOTE: Upon provider closure, all provider records must be maintained according to applicable laws, regulations and the above record retention requirements and copies of the required documents transferred to the new agency.**