

Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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Form Approved OMB
No. 0938-0391

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 125040	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. Building B. Wing	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 05/01/2025
NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER Life Care Center of Hilo		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE 944 West Kawaihina Street Hilo, HI 96720	
For information on the nursing home's plan to correct this deficiency, please contact the nursing home or the state survey agency.			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (Each deficiency must be preceded by full regulatory or LSC identifying information)		
F 0689 Level of Harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>Ensure that a nursing home area is free from accident hazards and provides adequate supervision to prevent accidents.</p> <p>**NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** 39853</p> <p>Based on observation, interviews, and record/document review, the facility failed to provide supervision to one resident (R)1, of a sample size of three, who was left alone in the facility van for an unknown period of time. As a result of this deficient practice, R1 was left in an unsafe environment with a high potential for negative physical and/or mental health outcomes. This deficient practice could affect any resident that used the transport van. After the event, the facility implemented interventions to reduce the risk of a similar event in the future and met the criteria for past noncompliance.</p> <p>Findings include:</p> <p>1) R1 was a [AGE] year-old female resident at the facility since her readmission on 03/16/2022. Her past pertinent medical history included hypertension, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, dementia without behavioral disturbance, generalized weakness, and end stage renal disease. P1's BIMS (Brief Interview for Mental Status) on the MDS (Minimum Data Sheet) dated 03/22/2025 was five, which suggest severe cognitive impairment. She required one person assist to extensive assist to transfer and spent the majority of her day in a wheelchair (w/c). R1 was scheduled for dialysis treatments three time a week at an offsite dialysis center.</p> <p>The facility owned two vans and employed drivers/transport staff, who were scheduled to take residents to and from appointments outside the facility. R1 was transported to her dialysis appointments in her wheelchair, by the facility transport van.</p> <p>On 02/19/2025 at approximately 12:00 PM, when R1 returned to her unit after dialysis, she reported to staff when the van returned to the facility, the driver left her alone.</p> <p>2) The facility encourages Residents/families to share concerns, and utilizes a form titled Concern and Comment Form to forward their concern to leadership.</p> <p>Reviewed the Concern and Comment Form, the Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) completed for R1 on 02/19/2025 at 12:20 PM. The form included:</p> <p>Please include in detail your concern, comment, or commendation: He left me. I was all alone. I didn't know what to do (handwritten by ADON).</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>		

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER
REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

(X6) DATE

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<p>F 0689</p> <p>Level of Harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>Were you unable to report this concern/comment to a staff member? Yes, was checked.</p> <p>Was the staff member able to resolve the concern at the time it was shared? Yes, was checked.</p> <p>The Form included an area to document Facility investigation and response. The Executive Director (ED) handwrote the following on 02/26/2025:</p> <p>Investigation steps, SW (Social Worker) spoke with Family member (FM)1/ Power of attorney regarding setting up meeting in regards to transportation. Meeting scheduled for 2/26/25.</p> <p>Actions taken to resolve/respond to concern, See attached (meeting held with family on 2/26/25).</p> <p>Concerned party's response to the plan/outcome, Family expressed appreciation for meeting and satisfied with solution.</p> <p>3) Reviewed R1's Pre/Post Dialysis Communication Forms for January 2025 to present. The form documents the resident's vital signs predialysis, at the dialysis center, and again on return to the facility, post dialysis.</p> <p>A total of 17 forms were reviewed. 16 of the 17 times documented for vitals (post dialysis) on return to the facility, ranged from 10:30 AM-11:35 AM. On 02/19/2025, the time post dialysis vital signs time were taken at 12:00 PM, which was the only time outside the range.</p> <p>Reviewed R1's Pre/Post Dialysis Communication Form, dated 02/19/2025, which revealed the following:</p> <p>05:00 AM Pre-dialysis vitals: temperature (T) 97.1, pulse (P) 59, blood pressure (BP) 164/67, respirations (R) 17, and weight (Wt.) 109.6 lbs.</p> <p>10:23 AM Dialysis Center vitals: T 90, P 62, BP 179/61, R20 Post-Dia (dialysis), Wt. 48.9 kg 107.8 lbs.</p> <p>12:00 PM Post dialysis vitals: T 98.1, P 64, BP 182/62, R 22, Wt. 106.2 lbs.</p> <p>4) Reviewed the Psychosocial notes, which included the following:</p> <p>02/26/2025: QSW (Social Services), ED (Executive Director), and DON accommodated FM1, FM2, FM3, FM4, and FM5 by having care plan meeting today. Family updated on Resident's concern in regards to transportation. Discussed plan of care, having mental health speak with Resident. 2 man in van at all times. Resident with cell phone. Family providing cell phone. Family expressed appreciation for meeting.</p> <p>03/04/2025: QSW met with R1 today to provide 1:1 social interaction for psychological well being. Resident displays pleasant affect, smiling, laughing and was able to carry out conversation in Ilocano and some English. Resident was oriented to self, but needed reminders to time and place. During the conversation, Resident express [sic] that she lost her voice and recalled when in the van calling out for assistance. Resident then states the person no longer works here and changed the subject. Resident was thankful of visit and was okay.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>		

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F 0689 Level of Harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>5) On 04/28/2025 at 12:00 PM, observed R1 in a w/c in her room. She was able to be understood and answer short questions. R1 confirmed she had just returned from her dialysis treatment, and getting ready to eat lunch. When asked about a previous concern with the van, she became upset, and indicated she did not want to talk about it, shaking her head back and forth. Inquired if she was OK, and she replied yes.</p> <p>6) On 04/28/2025 at 01:15 PM, interviewed the ADON in the conference room. She said the staff came to get her on 02/19/2025 after finding out R1 didn't immediately come in from the van when it arrived back to the facility. She said usually there would be the van driver and a transporter, but sometimes there was only one. The ADON said she was unsure how long R1 had been alone in the van, but when she saw her shortly after arriving back to the unit, she was alert, verbal and pleasant. She said R1's blood pressure was elevated, which was not unusual for her. When asked about R1's clothes, she said they were dry, and her temperature was normal.</p> <p>On 04/28/2025 at approximately 02:00 PM, interviewed the House Supervisor (HS) that was working on 02/19/2025. She said after she was notified that R1 had been left in the van, she went and saw her on the unit. The HS said that when she saw R1, she was fine. She did not have any details of the event, but said there were two people scheduled that day and one likely had taken another resident back to their unit.</p> <p>On 04/28/25 at 02:35 PM, interviewed the DON and ED in the conference room. The ED said they had a concern (referencing the form) associated with this incident. She said it was brought to her attention that day, an investigation initiated, immediate action taken, and communicated with the family. She said they continued to monitor R1's emotional status, there was no physical harm, and she quickly returned to her routine. Inquired what had changed to prevent another incident from occurring, and she said the standard now is two people on the vans. The ED said they are monitoring the volume of the transports to ensure the correct staffing. She said there were two staff scheduled that day, but were unable to determine the exact location of the second person or the exact amount of time R1 was in the van alone.</p> <p>On 05/01/2025 at 08:29 AM, interviewed the DON again, in the conference room. She said the staffing for the van transport has changed. She explained prior to the event on 02/19/2025, at times they would have only one person, the driver on the van. The DON said although the full-time transporter would start with the van, she would often have to stay with a resident at a scheduled appointment, which left the driver alone. She said when the driver was interviewed, he said when he returned to the facility, he went to the bathroom, then went to get something to eat, when her realized R1 was still in the van. The DON said after this incident, the driver decided to retire from the job, and not return to the facility.</p> <p>(continued on next page)</p>		

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<p>F 0689</p> <p>Level of Harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>On 05/01/2025 at 09:10 AM, interviewed Registered Nurse (RN)1, who often worked with R1. She said the staff get her ready to leave on dialysis days around 05:00 AM, and the pre-dialysis vitals are taken around that time. RN1 explained the transporter will come to the unit and take her to the van, usually leaving the unit about 06:00 AM. She said they work together, and the unit staff will assist with taking resident to and from the van as needed. RN1 said when R1 returns, they check the dialysis access site, and take vitals again. She stated on 02/19/2025, the CNA (certified nurses assistant) told her R1 was late getting back from dialysis. She said she thought maybe the van had to stop somewhere and was delayed. She said when R1 returned to the unit, she made a statement that the driver parked, closed the doors, and left her in the van. RN1 said R1 was flustered and very emotional at the time. After the event, they were able to calm her, and she returned to her routine, with a visit with her son that night.</p> <p>7) On 04/30/2025 at 11:08 AM, observed the transport van arriving back to the facility. The driver backed into a space in front of the facility, parked, and immediately prepared the ramp to unload Residents. One Resident was ambulatory and accompanied by staff. The other two were in wheelchairs, and taken off the van in a timely, organized manner, each accompanied by staff. No resident was left alone at anytime.</p> <p>8) The facility provided documentation of corrective actions taken to prevent a similar accident from occurring in the future, which included:</p> <p>Revised the orientation for new schedulers, drivers and transporters to include the transportation staffing policy.</p> <p>On 02/26/2025, a new policy was implemented to always have a minimum of two facility staff, a transporter and driver, on the van at all times. Depending on the type of appointments, three staff may be scheduled.</p> <p>On 02/26/2025, the DON directed the staff scheduler to implement the new policy and provided education as to the importance to ensure compliance.</p> <p>On 02/26/2025, the DON communicated verbally with transport staff, the new policy to have a driver with a transporter for each van and always have two staff to ensure residents are not left unsupervised.</p> <p>9) Review of the van/transporter work schedule for May 2025, confirmed minimum staffing of one driver and one transporter.</p>		