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Aide Training-- Must Be in the Language of Both Patients and Supervisors

Can a LHCSA which has approval to train aides in a foreign language give a competency exam to aides in that language?

There has been some confusion about this subject, and providers have gotten differing responses depending on whom they speak with at the Department of Health. We spoke with Maureen Duffy, who stated that the position of the Department's Bureau of Licensure and Quality Assurance is that all tests must be given in English, even if administered by an approved foreign language training program. Home health aide trainees must be able to adequately communicate with the patient AND the supervising professional (i.e. nurse or therapist) despite differences in primary languages each may speak.

Note that to be approved to train in a foreign language, programs must submit an application along with a translated copy of their training materials. The translation must include an attestation by a certified translator that the translation is a true replication of the curricular materials.

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