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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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PIN 19-01-ASC

TO: ALL RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*
PAMELA DICKFOSS
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **WAIVER REQUIREMENT FOR A NON-PHYSICIAN TO SIGN A
MEDICAL ASSESSMENT IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR
THE ELDERLY**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 19-01-ASC provides guidance to Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) licensees regarding the required medical assessment and the need to request a waiver to allow a licensed medical professional who is not a physician to sign a medical assessment.

RCFE licensees are required to obtain a medical assessment for a resident or prospective resident, *signed by a physician*, as specified in [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 22, section 87458\(a\)](#).

A medical assessment is required to be obtained:

- Prior to a person's acceptance as a resident in an RCFE [\(CCR, Title 22, section 87458\(a\)\)](#).
- Annually for a resident diagnosed with dementia [\(CCR, Title 22, section 87705\(c\)\(5\)\)](#).

The medical assessment shall be updated when required by the Department ([CCR, Title 22, section 87458\(c\)](#)). The [LIC 602A: Physician's Report for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly](#) is provided as a courtesy form for RCFE licensees to meet this requirement.

Note: The resident appraisal/re-appraisal, required pursuant to [CCR, Title 22 section 87457](#) and [CCR, Title 22 section 87463](#), is separate from the medical assessment discussed above and does not require a signature by a physician.

Waiver Requests for Non-Physicians to Sign Medical Assessment

Pursuant to [CCR, Title 22, section 87209](#): Program Flexibility, an RCFE licensee may request a waiver to [CCR, Title 22, section 87458\(a\)](#) to allow a licensed medical professional who is not a physician (e.g. Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner), acting within the scope of their practice and under the supervision of a licensed physician, to complete and sign the medical assessment. Once a waiver is approved by the Department, a licensee may accept a medical assessment signed by the licensed entity(ies) specified in their waiver.

If an RCFE licensee chooses to submit a written request for a waiver of this requirement, they must request a waiver for each of their facilities. The request must be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each facility.

Note: If you have already submitted, or have attempted to submit, a waiver request as specified above, please work with your Licensing Program Analyst to process the request.

[Regulations Interpretations and Procedures for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly Section 87458\(a\)](#) have been updated to reflect this guidance.

If you have any questions regarding this PIN, please contact your local [Adult and Senior Care Regional Office](#).