

# Policy Transmittal Aging and People with Disabilities



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**Number:** APD-PT-21-002

**Issue date:** 3/16/2021

**CORRECTED**

**Topic:** Provider Information

**Due date:**

**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

- New policy   
  Policy change   
  Policy clarification   
  Executive letter  
 Administrative Rule   
  Manual update   
  Other:

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Type B     | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs                        |   |

<b>Policy/rule title:</b>	VDQ Certification Requirement		
<b>Policy/rule number(s):</b>		<b>Release number:</b>	
<b>Effective date:</b>	1/1/21	<b>Expiration date:</b>	
<b>References:</b>	2019-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement between SEIU, 503 and the Oregon Home Care Commission; APD-PT-12-021		
<b>Web address:</b>	<a href="https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCC/PSW-HCW/Documents/SEIU_Non_State_Oregon_Home_Care_Commission_19-21.pdf">https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCC/PSW-HCW/Documents/SEIU_Non_State_Oregon_Home_Care_Commission_19-21.pdf</a>		

**Discussion/interpretation:**

At present, homecare workers who provide services for consumer-employers eligible for the VDQ program are not required to complete training to receive the collectively bargained \$3.00 per hour differential rate.

Article 14.1, Section 3 of the 2019-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the

Oregon Home Care Commission (OHCC) and SEIU, 503 establishes the requirement for Ventilator-Dependent Quadriplegia (VDQ) certification for homecare workers that must be earned in order to receive the \$3.00 differential. OHCC launched a VDQ Certification training pilot in December 2020 and training will be available to all HCWs on January 20, 2021.

## **VDQ certification policy**

### **Current workers:**

HCWs must earn the VDQ certification by **Feb. 1, 2022** to continue receiving the differential rate.

### **New VDQ HCWs:**

Beginning **Feb. 1, 2021**, new HCWs supporting a consumer-employer eligible for the VDQ program must complete the VDQ training within 90 days of employment to receive the differential.

### **Outreach:**

OHCC has identified all HCWs required to earn VDQ certification by **Feb. 1, 2022**. OHCC mailed letters to the consumer-employers and workers to inform them of the new VDQ certification requirements. OHCC will VDQ HCWs each time a training cohort begins.

HCWs can find details about the VDQ training sessions in the [Elevate](#) newsletter. Information is also available on the [OHCC's website](#).

### **2-Year Certification:**

The VDQ certification is valid for two years and there are continuing education requirements.

### **VDQ Certification Stipend:**

Existing VDQ HCWs as of 02/01/2021 will receive a stipend after successfully completing the VDQ certification training. New HCWs working for a consumer-employer eligible for the VDQ program will not receive a stipend.

### **Independent Choices Program**

**ICP personal support workers may attend the VDQ certification training, but they do not qualify for the differential because their rates are set by the ICP consumer-employer per federal law.**

~~Employees of Independent Choices Program (ICP) participants are not eligible to receive VDQ certification unless the participant agrees to pay employees the \$3.00 differential rate. ODHS/APD/OHCC does not set the wage rates for ICP providers. The~~

~~wage rates are set by their employers. OHCC will confirm with the Central Office ICP Coordinator the employee's wage rate.~~

### **VDQ training overview and requirements:**

The curriculum was created by Oregon State University College of Public Health and Human Services, Center for Health Innovation. The VDQ Certification curriculum is designed to help HCWs develop a basic understanding of quadriplegia and ventilator dependency, and its impact on health and functional abilities.

### **Here is what you need to know about the training:**

- Workers must have access to a computer or other compatible device and internet service.
- Workers will receive 49 hours of training. There are seven modules and each module is seven hours long.
- During the COVID pandemic, seven hours of training will be offered per week (two 3.5-hour sessions).

Training is offered via online webinars until physical distancing restrictions are lifted. In the future, training will be a blended model that includes of self-paced online modules.

### **Implementation/transition instructions:**

Refer to Local/branch action required.

**Training/communication plan:** Review of transmittal.

### **Local/branch action required:**

- Effective **Feb. 1, 2021**, refer HCWs who begin working with a consumer-employer eligible for the VDQ program to OHCC to enroll in VDQ certification training, and inform them they must earn the certification within 90 days of employment with the consumer-employer.
- **Continue to pay out the VDQ differential rate as part of ICP participants' cash benefit if they meet the VDQ program criteria.**
- Refer HCWs and consumer-employers who have questions to the OHCC at 1-877-867-0077 or email the OHCC certifications mailbox at [Certifications.OHCC@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:Certifications.OHCC@dhsosha.state.or.us)

**Central office action required:** OHCC will provide outreach to HCWs and consumers impacted by this policy.

**Field/stakeholder review:**  Yes  No

**If yes, reviewed by:** APD Operations

**Filing instructions:**

*If you have any questions about this policy, contact:*

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