



*Leading the industry that cares for people at home
through advocacy and education*

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NPDA Launches Caregiver Testing Program for Members

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Caregiver testing, an assessment tool developed by the National Private Duty Association’s Standards and Ethics Committee, is now available to NPDA members.

Approved by the NPDA board, the testing program will allow members to evaluate caregivers before they are placed with a client, assuring supervisors of the knowledge gained during the training process.

“We based this program off the Levels of Care guidelines we already have in place,” said Gloria Horton, executive director of Visiting Nurse Plus, Inc. and chairman of the NPDA’s Standards and Ethics Committee. “Upon completion of the training, the testing would identify areas of expertise or areas where additional training may be necessary. By administering the testing procedures, NPDA members will be able to determine if that person is indeed ready to be placed with a client.”

Testing is broken down into three areas, based on the three levels of care provided by most NPDA member companies. The Level I test is for homemaker companions, Level II is for

personal care assistants and Level III is for home health aides. All three tests focus on core areas such as communication, observation, reporting/documentation, behavioral and physical changes, maintenance of the environment and nutrition.

“As the level of care changes, so does the structure of the test questions,” Horton said. “We patterned the tests after what caregivers should know. For example, the level one test is a reflection on what the caregiver should know, based on the fact they would not be providing any hands on care. The level three test, on the other hand, focuses on such skills as reading and recording vital signs, personal care and safe transfer techniques.”

Horton said the testing program is an opportunity to educate consumers and legislators as to why NPDA members should be the private pay provider of choice.

“Those of us who are members of the NPDA have a desire to help the industry as a whole,” Horton said. “Our goal is to educate consumers and legislators about what they need to look for when searching for home care. They need to know that we, as a national organization, have adopted these tools and guidelines to care for those in need of private pay home care.”

Horton said the committee welcomes the feedback of the NPDA membership and hopes to build upon the initial testing program.

Copies of the tests are available by contacting the NPDA office.