



Child Care Center Licensing Manual

(August 2016)

For use with

COMAR 13A.16 Child Care Centers

(as amended effective 7/20/15)

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COMAR 13A.16.13 CENTERS FOR CHILDREN WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

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.01 Location of Center.

An office may issue a license for a room in a child care center or for an entire center offering care to children with acute illness.

.02 Applicability of Subtitle.

An applicant for a center offering care under this chapter shall meet the requirements of this subtitle with the exception of:

- A. COMAR 13A.16.05.12 concerning outdoor activity areas;**
- B. COMAR 13A.16.09.01 concerning schedule of daily activities for all children;**
- C. COMAR 13A.16.09.03B(1) and (2) concerning activity materials and equipment;**
- D. COMAR 13A.16.09.05A concerning carriages and strollers, if care is provided to children younger than 2 years old;**
- E. COMAR 13A.16.10.01A(2)(c) concerning emergency evacuation and disaster drills for children; and**
- F. COMAR 13A.16.11.01 concerning exclusion for acute illness.**

.03 Plan of Operation.

- A. An applicant for a center offering care under this chapter shall:**
 - (1) Submit to and receive prior approval from the office, in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the health officer, of a written plan of operation for the center, including provision for health assessment of ill children; and**
 - (2) Operate according to the approved plan.**
- B. An applicant shall include in the written plan of operation:**
 - (1) Procedures to prevent the spread of disease, including general infection control procedures and methods of preventing the spread of airborne diseases, such as chicken pox and measles;**
 - (2) Staff training requirements in the areas of prevention and control of communicable diseases and care of ill children;**
 - (3) Staff education and experience in the health care field;**
 - (4) Staff orientation in pediatric first aid, infection control, and facility policies;**
 - (5) Staff/child ratios;**
 - (6) The identity of an on-call health consultant;**
 - (7) A definition of the population to be served and the criteria for admission, including exclusion policies;**
 - (8) Procedures for preparing a written plan of care for each child upon admission to include instructions for care in emergencies, medications, and special medical and nonmedical treatments;**
 - (9) Procedures for periodic reassessment of the child;**

- (10) **Methods for establishing an individualized program of daily activities for each child;**
- (11) **Staff information, including a staffing pattern;**
- (12) **A list of materials, equipment, and furnishings; and**
- (13) **Identification of buildings and rooms to be used for the program.**

INTENT: A facility or facility component established to serve children with acute illnesses is exempt from certain licensing requirements either because those requirements are appropriate only with regard to the care of healthy children, or because compliance with them could actually be detrimental to acutely ill children. Instead, a program for acutely ill children must operate on the basis of a service plan, to meet the health needs of those children, that has been approved by appropriate health officials.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Plan of Operation"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: The facility or facility component operates according to the approved plan of operation.

ASSESSMENT METHOD: Observe and, as necessary, review facility documentation to determine if care, supervision, staffing levels and staff qualifications, activities, procedures, equipment, and environment are fully consistent with the approved plan of operation.

Notes:

- *Staff who care for ill children should not also care for well children.*
- *After issuance of the license, the Licensing Specialist should conduct periodic monitoring inspections of the facility or facility component to ascertain if it is operating according to the approved plan. To assist in this, consultation with the local health department or other health care professional may be required.*

.04 Director Requirements.

The director in a center for children with acute illness shall:

- A. Meet the requirements of COMAR 13A.16.06.05, .06, .07, or .08, as applicable; and**
- B. Have completed at least 40 hours of training in a college level course in prevention and control of communicable diseases and care of ill children.**

INTENT: Because of the particular needs of ill children and the obvious risks associated with those needs, the Director must complete additional specialized training in pediatric illness and disease prevention and control.

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: "Director Requirements"

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: *The Director has completed the required additional training.*

ASSESSMENT METHOD: *Review facility documentation to determine if the additional training has been completed.*

.05 Use of Health Consultant.

An operator shall use a health consultant who is a registered nurse, a pediatric or family nurse practitioner, or a pediatrician to develop written policies and procedures and to supervise and instruct staff on performing procedures.

INTENT: *Because of the specialized nature of a child care program for children with acute illnesses, the operator must arrange for a pediatric health professional to develop and oversee the implementation program's policies and procedures.*

INSPECTION REPORT ITEM: *"Use of Health Consultant"*

COMPLIANCE CRITERIA: *The facility has the required arrangement with a qualified pediatric health professional.*

ASSESSMENT METHOD: *Review facility records for documentation that substantiates the existence of the arrangement as required.*