



Division of Specialized Care for Children

PROVIDER NOTICE

Date: Oct. 15, 2026

Dear Home Nursing Agency Partners,

The Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) has received recent questions pertaining to requirements of certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to maintain certification. It is important to note that this pertains to all CNAs employed by the home nursing agency, regardless of whether they are a legally responsible adult (LRA).

In order to maintain CNA certification in Illinois, all CNAs must work at least one paid eight-hour shift every 24 months under a nurse at a covered healthcare entity. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has clarified that healthcare entities include hospital, home health, home services, long term care, nursing home, supportive living, assisted living, etc. If a CNA does not meet this requirement, their certification is considered lapsed.

A CNAs employment as a home health aide through a home nursing agency meets the requirement to maintain certification, so long as that CNA is paid for work during one eight-hour shift within a 24-month time. As the employer, you are responsible for ensuring that CNA employment is updated in the Health Care Worker Registry. This ensures the certification remains active.

If a CNA certification lapses or becomes inactive, that individual would have to retake the CNA test. For more information contact Southern Illinois University Carbondale at www.nurseaidetesting.com or (877)262-9259.

Please refer to IDPH's [Certified Nursing Assistant Facts page](#) and the [Part 245 Home Health, Home Services and Home Nursing Agency Code](#) for additional information on the requirements.

DSCC is happy to assist with any questions that come up. Please reach out to your Home Care Quality Improvement Liaison or call our office at (800) 322-3722.

Thank you for your continued partnership.