



Home Care Agency - Scope of Care

Home care agencies in California are licensed by the Department of Social Services and governed by California Health and Safety Code 1796.12. This code provides specific guidance on what services a Registered Home Care Aide can and cannot perform.

Allowed Services

Registered Home Care Aides can provide the Activities of Daily Living (ADL's):

- ✓ Bathing
- ✓ Exercising
- ✓ Making telephone calls
- ✓ Meal planning and preparation
- ✓ Dressing
- ✓ Positioning
- ✓ Transferring
- ✓ Ambulating
- ✓ Feeding
- ✓ Companionship
- ✓ Housekeeping
- ✓ Laundry
- ✓ Personal hygiene and grooming
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Shopping for personal care items or groceries
- ✓ Toileting and incontinence care
- ✓ Assisting with medication that the client self-administers
- ✓ Correspondence
- ✓ When assisting with medication that the client self-administers, Registered Home Care Aides can perform the following:

Prohibited Services

The following list, while not exhaustive, contains examples of medical services a Registered Home Care Aide may not provide:

- ✗ Diabetic insulin shots
- ✗ Catheter care
- ✗ Bedsore treatment
- ✗ Physical therapy
- ✗ Glucose readings (blood sugar)
- ✗ Tube feedings and care IV insertions
- ✗ Monitoring/recording blood pressure
- ✗ Ventilator dependent care
- ✗ Colostomy bag care
- ✗ Monitoring/recording vital signs
- ✗ Post-surgery wound care
- ✗ Assistance with medication that the client self-administers that would otherwise require administration or oversight by a licensed health care professional.

- ✓ Opening the client's medication bottle/canister/blister pack
- ✓ Reminding the client to take medication or refill medication

For more information, please contact the Home Care Services Branch by e-mail at HCSB@dss.ca.gov or telephone at (877) 424-5778.