

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HH 405: Discharge Policies</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WAC 246-335-520: Delivery of Services</p>	
Date of Origin: 03/01/20	Revised: 05/22/2025

**Policy Statement:**

Hanford Home Health has established specific criteria for discharging patients.

**Procedure:**

- 1) In order to minimize the possibility of patient abandonment, clients shall be given at least a forty-eight (48) hour written notice prior to discharge.
- 2) Forty-eight (48) hour written notice discharge is not required if any of the following exists:
  - The home care aide/caregiver is abused or threatened, or the environment is considered unsafe for the worker
  - Significant patient non-compliance
  - Failure to pay for services rendered
  - If the patient or family representative refuses to allow for the provision of a safe environment.
  - When repeated attempts by home care staff to establish a care regime are unsuccessful and there exists noncompliance with the Plan of Care that renders the patient and the home environment unsafe.
- 3) Discharge is appropriate when any of the following conditions exists:
  - The patient or the healthcare professional requests termination of services
  - The patient has been rehabilitated to his or her maximum potential and goals for care have been met
  - The patient becomes physically able to obtain needed services on an outpatient basis
  - The patient does not respond to concerted efforts to carry out the home health Plan of Care
  - The patient's clinical status worsens, and hospitalization or nursing home care becomes appropriate
  - Another person (e.g., a family member) is capable of providing the required service and has been prepared to assume this responsibility.
- 4) Patients and/or family members will be informed of any impending discharge from services when Hanford Home Health is ceasing operations, or Hanford Home Health is unable to meet the patient's needs.
- 5) A Home Health Agency discharging a patient that is concerned about the ongoing care and safety may submit a self-report to appropriate state agencies which identifies the reason for discharge and the steps taken to mitigate safety concerns.

- 6) The criteria for discharging the patient will be documented in the clinical record.