

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

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Pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

PROVIDER BULLETIN



Pete Ricketts, Governor

No. 20-07

DATE: October 16, 2020

TO: Medicaid HCBS DD Waiver Agency Service Providers

FROM: Tony Green, Director
Division of Developmental Disabilities

BY: Katie Weidner, Program Manager

RE: Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI)

This bulletin is being issued to supplement Title 404 NAC 4 regulations regarding Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI), specifically, how the Division of Developmental Disabilities determines approval of ESI systems.

All ESI systems (at a minimum) must include in-person teaching methods addressing the following:

- Recognizing stimulus, triggers, de-escalation techniques
 - An explanation of the cycle of behavior (from antecedent to conclusion of behavior)
 - Communication skills for de-escalation
 - Identification of when ESI is appropriate
- Body mechanics
 - Stance and balance
 - Awareness of position, posture, and proximity
- Emergency Safety Interventions (physical interaction skills)
 - Accompanying
 - Assisting
 - Escorting
 - Supporting
 - Avoiding
 - Redirecting
 - Releasing
 - Restraining
- Identification of symptoms of medical distress
- Identification of prohibited interventions, that may include (but are not limited to): hyperextension, pressure on the chest/neck, and infliction of pain.

Providers holding a current certification are required to assure that an ESI system is identified in the agency policies and procedures manual and that the curriculum for the ESI system contains the teaching methods listed in this bulletin. Current agency providers are also required to ensure that all staff working directly

with participants are trained in the ESI system. Current providers must meet these requirements by September 30, 2021.

Current providers will be required to submit both the applicable section of their policy and procedures manual **and** the curriculum used to train staff to DHHS.DDProviderRelations@nebraska.gov no later than March 31, 2021. DHHS-DD will review the policies, procedures and the curriculum, and issue a letter to the provider indicating the result of the review.

New providers seeking initial certification will be required to identify their ESI system in the policy and procedure manual submitted with the initial application for certification. The curriculum for training the ESI system must also be included. This requirement must be met prior to certification being issued. All staff working directly with participants must be trained in the ESI system within 180 days of hire.

If you have any questions about this provider bulletin, please contact Katie Weidner at katie.weidner@nebraska.gov or 402-471-8716.