

**BUREAU OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE
NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION
FACT SHEET**

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Overview of the State’s Licensing and Certification Programs

The mission of the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) in the State Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services is to protect the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation enforcement, and education.

The Bureau uses several activities, including but not limited to, licensing, regulation enforcement and education to ensure and improve the quality of care in Nevada’s licensed medical and dependent care facilities. ¹ The Bureau is staffed with highly trained professionals, including but not limited to, nurses, physicians, dietitians, social workers, specialists in environmental and food safety, building and fire safety and others with backgrounds in health and human services. The staff evaluate whether facilities are complying with laws that ensure the safety of patients and residents. The variety of staffing allows for a comprehensive review of the care that is provided to patients and residents, and it includes an analysis of the physical environment such as whether residents will be able to get out of a facility if a fire breaks out. In addition to licensed healthcare practitioners and individuals specialized in inspecting kitchens, food borne illnesses, food safety, building and fire safety, the Bureau employs individuals with backgrounds in business and healthcare administration, health education, chemistry, medical technology, nutrition and others, that add to that knowledge creating well rounded teams of individuals to look into complaints and conduct inspections.

Components of the Bureau:

- **Health Facilities Section** – Responsible for licensed dependent care and medical facilities; has both a federal and state component
- **Medical Laboratories Section** – Responsible for medical laboratory and personnel, including CLIA certifications
- **Radiation Control Program**– Responsible for issues related to radiation, including equipment such as x-rays, mammography and radioactive materials monitoring
- **Child Care Licensing Section**- Responsible for licensing and inspections of child care facilities statewide

¹ Medical facilities include hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes), dialysis centers, psychiatric facilities and others as identified by NRS 449.0151. Dependent care facilities are defined in NRS 449.0045 and include drug and alcohol abuse facilities, halfway houses, adult day care centers, group homes, agencies that provide personal care services in a person’s home, and facilities that house persons recently released from prison. The only facility that is outside of these definitions are the homes that care for two or fewer persons, which are called “homes for individual residential care.”

What does the Bureau do?:

- **Initial and periodic facility inspections**
- **Investigation** of licensed and unlicensed facility complaints
- **Enforcement** of state and federal regulations
- **Participates in and/or facilitates advisory groups** – including ambulatory surgical centers, nursing homes, residential facilities for groups, personal care agencies, homes for individual residential care and hospitals, adult day care and child care facilities
- **Participates in the Senior Incident Review Team** coordinated by the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services as well as collaborating closely with the Nevada Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators, the Medicaid Fraud unit, Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, and respective public guardian's offices
- **Participates in healthcare associated-infections activities** to help reduce infections
- **Supports and works with the Infection Control program** in the Office of Epidemiology of the State Health Division
- **Provides education** in areas such as new applicant training to become a licensed facility and caregiver and provider training in areas identified as needing improvement and/or as requested
- **Oversees a medication management** review program to ensure caregivers are receiving appropriate courses related to the administration of medications in residential facilities
- **Reviews bedbound exceptions** to ensure residential facilities can adequately care for a bedbound resident
- **Works with the Department of Public Safety** to help ensure facilities do not hire employees that are disqualified to work in a facility in accordance with NRS 449.176 and/or 449.188 through HCQC's background verification program
- **Applies for, manages and carries out grant activities** to help ensure HCQC's mission
- Serving as the State's Opioid Treatment Authority which assists with oversight of methadone clinics
- **Works with other government agencies** to produce and provide facility specific reports that the public, providers and governmental agencies can use
- **Remains current with standards** related to healthcare safety and health by working on regulation development and passage

*Since each section has unique responsibilities all of the above activities may not pertain to all sections and specialized activities carried out by a certain section may not be accounted for in this list. This list is to provide a general idea of the activities carried out by the Bureau and is not meant to be all inclusive.