

1 10A NCAC 13D .2801 is proposed for amendment as follows:  
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3 **SECTION .2800 - ACTIVITIES, RECREATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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5 **10A NCAC 13D .2801 ACTIVITY SERVICES**

6 (a) The facility shall provide a program of activities that is ~~on-going~~ ongoing and in accordance with the  
7 comprehensive assessment, and that promotes the interests, as well as physical, mental and psychosocial well-being,  
8 of each patient.

9 ~~(b) The administrator shall designate an activities director who shall be responsible for activity and recreational~~  
10 ~~services for all patients and who shall have appropriate management authority. The director shall:~~

11 (1) ~~be a recreation therapist or be eligible for certification as a therapeutic recreation specialist by a~~  
12 ~~recognized accrediting body; or~~

13 (2) ~~have two years of experience in a social or recreation program within the last five years, one of~~  
14 ~~which was full time in a patient activities program in a health care setting; or~~

15 (3) ~~be an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; or~~

16 (4) ~~be certified by the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals; or~~

17 (5) ~~have completed an activities training course approved by the State.~~

18 (b) ~~A facility shall have~~ The activities program must be directed by an activity director who meets the following  
19 qualifications:

20 (1) The activity director hired after August 1, 2026 shall meet a minimum educational requirement by  
21 being a high school graduate or certified under the GED Program.

22 (2) The activity director hired after August 1, 2026 shall complete, within nine months of employment  
23 or assignment to this position, the basic activity course for nursing home activity directors offered  
24 by community colleges, universities or other nationally recognized online platforms, that include a  
25 minimum of 10 hours of documentation in the course. An activity director shall be exempt from the  
26 required basic activity course if one or more of the following applies:

27 (A) the individual is a licensed recreational therapist or eligible for certification as a therapeutic  
28 recreation specialist as defined by the North Carolina Recreational Therapy Licensure Act  
29 in accordance with G.S. 90C;

30 (B) the individual has two years of experience working in programming for an adult recreation  
31 or activities program within the last five years, one year of which was full-time in an  
32 activities program for patients or residents in a health care or long-term care setting;

33 (C) the individual is a licensed occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant  
34 in accordance with G.S. 90, Article 18D;

35 (D) the individual is certified as an Activity Professional by the National Certification Council  
36 for Activity Professionals; or

37 (E) the required basic activity course was completed prior to August 1, 2026.

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*History Note: Authority G.S. 131E-104; 143B-165(10); 42 C.F.R. 483.15(f);  
RRC objection due to lack of statutory authority Eff. July 13, 1995;  
Eff. January 1, 1996;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. March 22,  
~~2015-2015~~;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*