

Nursing Assessment

What is the difference between a pre-admission/resident assessment and a comprehensive nursing care assessment?

A **pre-admission/resident assessment** is a needs assessment screening tool used to obtain information about the personal care needs and requests of a potential resident. The pre-admission/resident assessment findings may identify needs for a comprehensive nursing care assessment.

A **nursing care assessment** gathers information about the person's health status through the collection of data and/or physical examination. This assessment includes the use of the nursing process ([WAC 246-840-700](#)). Although a nursing care assessment may include elements of a non-skilled personal care assessment, it is a comprehensive nursing care evaluation and must be performed by the registered nurse. The licensed practical nurse may assist in gathering information for the nursing care assessment under the direction and supervision of the registered nurse.

Who can perform the pre-admission/resident assessment in adult family homes and assisted living facilities?

The laws and rules found in Aging and Adult Service Section of [WAC 388-78A](#) (assisted living facilities) and [388-76](#) (adult family homes) define the qualifications required for an individual to perform the required pre-admission/resident assessment. An individual with a nursing license (licensed practical nurse or registered nurse) meets the qualifications to perform the pre-admission/resident assessment. Other professionals may also perform the pre-admission/resident assessment ([WAC 388-76-10150](#) [WAC 388-78A-2080](#)). This pre-admission/resident assessment (screening tool) does not necessarily require the services of a professional licensed nurse or the use of the nursing process ([WAC 246-840-700](#)). The goal of the pre-admission/resident assessment is to determine the personal care services needs of a potential resident and at times, the nursing care needs of said resident. If a comprehensive nursing assessment is contemplated as part of the care plan, the registered nurse must undertake that portion of the pre-admission assessment.

Who can provide training of staff in adult family homes and assisted living facilities related to personal care services?

Staff must meet the credentialing, training and competency requirements established in the state and federal laws and rules specific to the setting. Training and competency assessment for personal care services (non-nursing care) does not require the services of a Washington state licensed professional nurse. Training and education of staff employed in these facilities that address personnel, performance and other administrative activities do not require the utilization of a registered nurse.