

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**



Effective Date: December 1, 2010	Number of Attachments: 1
Responsible Office: DDS Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration	
Supersedes Policy: Health and Wellness Standards (effective April 1, 2010)	
Title/Subject: Health and Wellness Standards Policy	
Cross-References: Health and Wellness Standards	

All underlined words/definitions can be found in the Definitions Appendix.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the standards and guidelines by which the Department on Disability Services (“DDS”), Developmental Disabilities Administration (“DDA”), will provide guidance in the provision of requirements, information and tools necessary to advocate for the best possible health care and health outcomes for individuals served by DDA.

2. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all DDA employees, subcontractors, providers/vendors, consultants, volunteers, and governmental agencies that provide services and supports on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving services as part of the DDA Service Delivery System funded by DDA or the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF).

3. AUTHORITY

The authority for this policy is established in the Department on Disability Services as set forth in D.C. Law 16-264, the “Department on Disability Services Establishment Act of 2006,” effective March 14, 2007 (D.C. Official Code § 7-761.01 *et seq.*); and D.C. Law 2-137, the “Mentally Retarded Citizens Constitutional Rights and Dignity Act of 1978,” effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1301.01 *et seq.*).

4. POLICY

It is the policy of DDS to ensure all individuals receiving services from the DDA service system have access to and receive quality supports, services, and health care. The Health and Wellness (H & W) Standards provide the information and tools necessary to advocate for the best possible healthcare and health outcomes for individuals served by DDA. DDA has adopted the H & W Standards to emphasize the importance of preventive health, continual assessment for changes in health and health care coordination.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for this policy is vested in the Director, Department on Disability Services. Implementation for this policy is the responsibility of the Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration.

6. STANDARDS

The following are the standards by which DDS will evaluate compliance with this policy:

- A. Healthcare assessments shall include data and observations, and address primary and long term care needs and recommendations.
- B. Healthcare assessments will adhere to professional standards.
- C. Individuals who have capacity to make informed decisions will be supported as needed to do so.
- D. DDA processes will utilize (but are not limited to) the following tools:
 - 1. Nursing Assessments
 - 2. Healthcare Review Form
 - 3. Healthcare Management Plan
 - 4. Health Passports
 - 5. Other Health Forms



Laura L. Nuss, Director



Approval Date

Attachments:

- 1. Health and Wellness Standards