



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO BOX 358
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

DR. RAYNARD E. WASHINGTON
Acting Commissioner

In Re Licensure Violation:	:	
	:	
HPI SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH AND	:	CEASE AND DESIST, INFORMATION
	:	REQUIREMENT AND RESTITUTION
ANNETTA WILSON- BARNETT	:	ORDER
	:	
	:	
	:	

TO: Annetta Wilson- Barnett, Administrator
HPI School of Allied Health
979 Lehigh Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083

For the reasons set forth below, the New Jersey Department of Health (the Department) is issuing to HPI School of Allied Health (HPI) and Annetta Wilson-Barnett a cease and desist, information requirement and restitution order.

1. HPI and Annetta Wilson-Barnett, the owner and administrator of HPI, were found in violation of the regulations and of their Settlement Agreement with the Department by failing to provide required reports and by conducting unauthorized classes.
2. HPI and Ms. Wilson Barnett also conducted classes without the appointment of a consultant, in violation of their Settlement Agreement with the Department.
3. HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett also violated N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.10 (b) by failing to provide forty (40) hours of clinical training at a nursing home, which is a required part of the ninety (90) hours total training requirement.

The Health Care Facilities Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.) (the Act) provides a statutory scheme designed to ensure that all health care facilities are of the highest quality. Pursuant to the Act and N.J.A.C. 8:43E-1.1 et seq. (General Licensure Procedures and Standards Applicable to All Licensed Facilities), the Commissioner of Health is authorized to inspect all health care facilities and to enforce the Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:39-1.1 et seq.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.13, "[t]he Department shall conduct unannounced site visits of a nurse aide in long-term care facilities training program," and "[t]he Department may deny, suspend, or withdraw approval if it determines that a nurse aide training program fails to follow the application as submitted to, and approved by, the Department." N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.13(a) and (b).

NATCEP TRAINING REGULATIONS

To ensure the quality of care in skilled nursing facilities, federal law requires that nurse aides undergo required training. 42 U.S.C. § 1395i-3(b)(5). Federal regulations establish the requirements for approval of the programs that train nurse aides, referred to as Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs (NATCEP). 42 C.F.R. §483.152. The Department oversees long-term care facilities as well as the NATCEP for nurse aides within the state. Certified nurse aides (CNAs) must complete the NATCEP training and successfully pass the Competency Evaluation Program to acquire state certification.

Written approval of the Department is required prior to commencement of a training program in an educational institution, a facility, or a proprietary program. N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.10(a). A CNA training school obtains approval by submitting an Application for Approval of a Nurse Aide in Long Term Care Facilities Training and Competency Evaluation Program application form to the Department. Upon reviewing the application, "[t]he Department may request submission of additional information or require the redesign and/or revision of the program materials. Redesign or revision of the program application does not ensure that approval will be granted." N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.10 (j). Once a NATCEP has been approved to operate, the school must submit, in accordance with application instructions, a class application at least three weeks prior to the requested start date of the class to allow for appropriate staff review and processing of the application. The approval process is further detailed in the Department's publication, "Navigating the NATCEP: A Guide to the Nurse Aide in Long-Term Care Facilities Training and Competency Evaluation Program," which is published on the Department's web site.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.13, the Department is authorized to deny, suspend, or withdraw approval of a training program. See also 42 C.F.R. 483.151. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. 483.151(f)(2), "[t]he State may withdraw approval of a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program or nurse aide competency evaluation program if the State determines that any of the applicable requirements of §483.152 or §483.154 are not met by the program."

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.13, "[t]he Department shall conduct unannounced site visits of a nurse aide in long-term care facilities training program," and "[t]he Department may deny, suspend, or withdraw approval if it determines that a nurse aide training program fails to follow the application as submitted to, and approved by, the Department." N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.13(a) and (b).

The administrator of the educational institution conducting the training program is responsible for ensuring that "[t]he curriculum is implemented in accordance with the application as submitted and approved by the Certification Program of the Department." N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.14 (Responsibilities of Administrator). The Department's application includes, among other things, the dates the course is scheduled to begin and end, the date for the skills evaluation, the number of students in the class, the location and start time of the skills evaluation and the names of the instructor and evaluator.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.12 (Student Records), each facility or educational institution that conducts a training program must, at minimum, maintain the following records for at least four years:

1. The beginning and ending dates of the training program;
2. An attendance record;
3. A signed skills competency task form; and
4. An evaluation of the student's classroom and clinical performance, completed by the student's instructor.

BACKGROUND

On June 30, 2023, the Department issued a Notice of Revocation and Right to Hearing to Annetta Wilson-Barnett and HPI after Department staff identified multiple deficient practices. On October 26, 2023, the Department issued a Corrected Notice of Revocation and Right to Hearing to HPI. These notices are

incorporated herein by reference. HPI requested a hearing before the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law. Subsequently, on May 13, 2024, the parties reached a settlement pursuant to which HPI agreed to retain a Department-approved consultant for six months and, following completion of the consultancy period, transition into a probationary status for two years. The Settlement Agreement required HPI to submit a list of students with each NATCEP class application, including name, address, email and phone number, and allowed for amendment of the list up until the day that class began. The Settlement Agreement is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

CURRENT DEFICIENCIES

The Department has received credible evidence indicating that HPI has been providing CNA training through its approved NATCEP program without prior approval of its classes, without providing the full training course, and in violation of the Settlement Agreement.

After the Department approved a consultant pursuant to the Settlement Agreement effective July 28, 2025, HPI conducted a Department-approved class beginning on July 28, 2025 and ending on September 5, 2025, as permitted pursuant to the Settlement Agreement. However, HPI did not ensure that its Department-approved consultant submitted bi-weekly written reports to the Department as required by the Settlement Agreement. On September 22, 2025, the Department advised HPI that no further classes would be approved until HPI secured a Department-approved consultant who would meet the Settlement Agreement requirements, including provision of the required reports. The Department further advised HPI that, due to the failure of the consultant to meet the requirements of the Settlement Agreement, the Department would set a new start date for the 6-month consultancy provided by the Settlement Agreement when HPI engaged a replacement consultant.

Although a replacement consultant had not been approved, and the Department did not approve any further classes, during a November 28, 2025 site visit, Department staff learned that HPI had conducted unauthorized classes from January through November 2025 without first securing Department approval and without a Department-approved consultant as required by the Settlement Agreement. The school did not fulfill the Settlement Agreement requirement to obtain a Department-approved consultant for any classes, with the exception of the class beginning on July 28, 2025 and ending on September 5, 2025. Moreover, HPI conducted these classes without receiving Department approval permitting them to be conducted.

After the November 28, 2025 site visit to HPI, Department staff obtained a list provided by D&S Headmaster, the vendor that administers the CNA skills evaluation test. The list included 81 names of HPI students who sat for the skills evaluation test. An additional eight HPI students were scheduled to complete skills evaluation testing on December 5, 2025, but the Department advised D&S that these individuals could not test because the HPI class was not approved.

In addition, HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett violated N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.10 (b) by failing to provide the forty (40) hours of clinical training at a nursing home, which is a required part of the ninety (90) hours total training. HPI's failure to comply with the clinical rotation was confirmed by the Administrator at the nursing home Birchwood Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, which was the school's clinical site. The Administrator stated that the nursing home never received a copy of HPI's NATCEP application or a copy of its class schedule. The Administrator further stated that no student activity was noted in the nursing home during the time of the unapproved classes. A student who attended an unapproved class from September 22, 2025, through October 30, 2025, informed the Department that no clinical rotation was completed during that class. The student further stated that several additional students joined the class approximately three weeks after the unapproved class had begun. The newly added students thus would not have been able to complete the full required 90-hour training.

In 2025, the Department approved the following class:

Start Date	End Date
7/28/2025	9/5/2025

In 2024, the Department approved the following classes:

Start Dates	End Dates
01/08/2024	02/19/2024
04/15/2024	06/04/2024
06/03/2024	07/19/2024
08/12/2024	09/11/2024

In 2023, the Department approved the following classes:

Start Dates	End Dates
12/12/2022	01/26/2023
12/16/2022	03/01/2023
02/13/2023	03/28/2023
02/13/2023	03/22/2023
03/27/2023	05/04/2023
10/16/2023	11/22/2023
10/18/2023	01/31/2024
11/06/2023	12/18/2023
11/01/2023	02/02/2024

All classes conducted during these years other than those specifically listed above were not approved by the Department.

On March 6, 2026, the Department obtained from D&S Headmaster a list of all tests taken from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, by students who were taught by instructor Anetta Wilson-Barnett. See attached list, which is incorporated herein by reference. Of the list of 109 students who took the test, only four students attended an approved class.

As the owner and administrator of HPI and a signatory of the May 13, 2024, Settlement Agreement, Ms. Wilson-Barnett was fully aware of the requirements for classes to be approved. Both HPI and Anetta Wilson-Barnett violated the Settlement Agreement and NATCEP requirements, and Ms. Wilson-Barnett personally participated in these violations by teaching the unapproved classes.

As a result of the site visit findings, the Department deactivated HPI's NATCEP school code.

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

The Department hereby orders HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett to cease and desist conducting nurse aide training classes that have not been approved by the Department pursuant to the regulations and the Settlement Agreement.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENT ORDER

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-5 and N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.12, the Department hereby notifies HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett that they shall have until May 22, 2026, to provide to the Department a copy of the HPI school application and Student Enrollment Agreement for each student attending classes conducted from January 1, 2025, through the date of issuance of this order.

RESTITUTION ORDER

The Department hereby orders HPI to reimburse, by May 22, 2026, all eight students who were scheduled to take a test on December 5, 2025, but were unable to do so because the class had not been approved. In addition, the Department orders HPI to reimburse, by May 22, 2026, the 102 students enrolled in unapproved classes who sat for the skills evaluation test. HPI shall reimburse all money paid to HPI by the students. HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett shall provide the Department with the list of individuals and proof of the amount reimbursed to each one, including names and addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and cancelled checks, by June 5, 2026.

The information required pursuant to this order shall be emailed to: Andrea.Ferguson@doh.nj.gov and sent by regular mail to:

Andrea Ferguson
Certification Program
P.O. Box 358 – Floor 2
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0358

Department staff will monitor HPI's and Ms. Wilson-Barnett's compliance with this order to confirm compliance, including whether restitution is paid in a timely fashion, and may conduct unannounced visits. Failure to comply with these and any other applicable requirements, as set forth in pertinent rules and regulations, may result in the imposition of other remedies.. The Department reserves the right to pursue all other remedies available by law.

RIGHT TO HEARING

HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett are entitled to challenge this order by requesting a formal hearing at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). HPI Ms. Wilson-Barnett may request a hearing to challenge any or all of the above-cited deficiencies. HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett must advise this Department within 30 days of the date of this letter if they request an OAL hearing regarding the findings. In addition, please be advised that even if HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett do appeal, HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett must refrain from conducting nurse aide training classes that have not been approved by the Department pursuant to the regulations and the Settlement Agreement until the appeal is resolved.

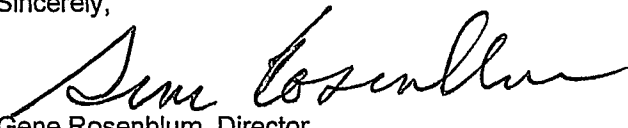
Please forward the OAL hearing request to:

Attention: OAL Hearing Requests
Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance, New Jersey Department of Health
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of this notice will render this a final agency decision. The final agency order shall thereafter have the same effect as a judgment of the court.

Corporations are not permitted to represent themselves in OAL proceedings. Therefore, if HPI is owned by a corporation, representation by counsel is required. In the event of an OAL hearing, HPI and Ms. Wilson-Barnett are required to submit a written response to each and every charge as specified in this notice, which shall accompany its written request for a hearing. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions concerning the Cease and Desist, Information Requirement and Restitution Order, please contact Andrea Ferguson, Office of Program Compliance, at Andrea.Ferguson@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Gene Rosenblum, Director
Office of Program Compliance
Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

GR:JLM:eg
DATED: April 29, 2026
E-MAIL
Control #X26036

C. Order Distribution List