

**Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Health Facilities Division
Citation**

Citation Number: #5629		Date: 3-8-22		
Facility Name: Salem Lutheran Home		Survey Dates: 2/16-24/22		
Facility Address/City/State/Zip 2027 College Avenue Elk Horn, IA 51531		SB		
Rule or Code Section	Nature of Violation	Class	Fine Amount	Correction date

56.1(1)	<p>481—56.6(135C) Treble and double fines. 56.6(1) Treble fines for repeated violations. The director of the department of inspections and appeals shall treble the penalties specified in rule 481—56.3(135C) for any second or subsequent class I or class II violation occurring within any 12-month period, if a citation was issued for the same class I or class II violation occurring within that period and a penalty was assessed therefor.</p>	I	\$15,000 (Treble Fine) (Held In Suspension)	Upon receipt
58.28(3)e	<p>481—58.28(135C) Safety. The licensee of a nursing facility shall be responsible for the provision and maintenance of a safe environment for residents and personnel. (III)</p> <p>58.28(3) Resident safety.</p> <p>e. Each resident shall receive adequate supervision to protect against hazards from self, others, or elements in the environment. (I, II, III)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>Based on observations, record review and staff interviews, the facility failed to prevent accidents and hazards for 1 of 4 residents reviewed. Resident #47 fell in a parking lot of a local gas station when staff failed to ambulate the resident</p>			

Facility Administrator

Date

If, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the citation, you (1) do not request a formal hearing or; (2) withdraw your request for formal hearing, and (3) pay the penalty; the assessed penalty will be reduced by thirty-five percent (35%) pursuant to Iowa Code section 135C.43A (2013).

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	<p>with a gait belt as the resident walked on uneven ground. The resident transported to the hospital and admitted to ICU (intensive care unit) after scans showed a subdural hematoma from the fall. The facility reported a census of 53 residents.</p> <p>Findings include:</p> <p>1. A Minimum Data Set (MDS) dated 10/5/21 assessed Resident #47 with a Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS) score of 10 (moderate cognitive impairment). The resident required extensive assistance of one staff for bed mobility and toileting. Transfers and locomotion required the limited assistance of one staff.</p> <p>The care plan updated on 4/27/21, identified Resident #47 with a self-care performance deficit related to diabetic neuropathy. The care plan revealed the resident at risk for falls and alteration in activity related to loss of lower limb and he was learning to balance and walk with prosthetic leg. The care plan directed staff to provide stand by assist with a gait belt and walker and to ensure a safe environment.</p> <p>An incident report dated 10/28/21 at 2:18 PM revealed Staff F Licensed Practicing Nurse was summoned to a local gas station. The facility van driver stopped at a local gas station and allowed</p>			
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	<p>the resident to get out. The resident fell in the parking lot. Staff F stated when she arrived at the gas station, she observed the resident laying on the concrete ground approximately 5 feet away from the vehicle and the back of his head was bleeding. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) arrived and transferred the resident to the hospital.</p> <p>An emergency department note dated 10/28/21 identified the chief complaint as "fall". The resident walked outside and tripped, The resident fell backwards and hit the left posterior aspect of his head and also his left elbow. The resident reported 6 out of 10 head pain on a scale of 0-10 with 0 being no pain and 10 being the worst imaginable pain. The report identified a left elbow abrasion. A computerized tomography (CT) scan of the head performed 10/28/21 identified a very small acute subdural hemorrhage adjacent to the falx with maximum thickness measuring 3 mm (millimeter). No midline shift or mass effect. The CT report also identified a left parietal scalp soft tissue hematoma. X-rays of the chest, pelvis and left elbow did not identify fractures. The ED report revealed the resident admitted to ICU (intensive care unit) in guarded condition.</p> <p>A discharge summary dated 11/2/21 identified admitting diagnosis as: fall. The principal</p>			
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	<p>diagnosis (definitive condition responsible for admission) listed as subdural hemorrhage.</p> <p>On 2/21/22 at 12:05 PM Staff A Certified Nursing Assistant) stated she drove the van. She identified herself as very familiar with the residents and their transfer and ambulation needs. She stated in October when Resident #47 fell at the gas station, they were on their way back to the facility after an appointment and the resident asked her to stop at the convenience store so he could buy something. She stated she drove the facility van that did not have a wheel chair lift and the resident sat in the front seat. Staff A stated the resident required assistance with transferring in and out of the van, and with his prosthetic leg, he required guidance and help. Staff A said the resident transferred out of the van without problems and she stayed next to him, without using a gait belt, as he pushed the walker through the parking lot of the gas station. She revealed the concrete in the parking lot very uneven with areas of cracks and heaving slabs. There were many areas where there were lips in the concrete and the resident used a walker with wheels on the front legs and skies in the back. Staff A said that the resident did not rush with his ambulation, but moved forward very slowly because of the prosthetic leg. She stated as she walked along side of him, the front wheels of the</p>			
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	<p>walker got stuck on an uneven area in the concrete. The resident then lost his balance and fell back onto the concrete and hit his head. She thought the walker landed on top of the resident. Staff A reported several bystanders came to assist with keeping the resident warm and support his head while they waited for the ambulance. Staff A remembered that there was no snow or ice on the ground, but the weather was cold. Staff A stated she did not stop at the gas station with any other resident. She sometimes stopped at a drive-through and get something to eat. She said the administration went through policy with her after the incident and she understood what the expectations were going forward.</p> <p>On 02/23/22 at 10:06 AM, Staff A stated the resident did not use a gait belt when the fall occurred. She acknowledged there was a gait belt in the van but she did not put it on the resident the day they stopped at the gas station.</p> <p>On 02/22/22 at 11:26 AM the Director of Nursing (DON) stated staff sometimes take residents to the grocery store or other outside activities, however, those residents must be independent and Resident #47 was not. The DON suggested Staff A should have left the resident in the van and gone in to get the food for him. She stated</p>				
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	<p>the facility did not have a specific policy related to a resident being independent in order to take them out. The DON said she believed when the residents' walker caught on the concrete, that he over-corrected and then lost his balance and fell backwards.</p> <p>A policy dated 7/19/21 Fall Prevention and Management directed staff to communicate risks and interventions for residents communicate any changes in the resident on daily basis to help prevent falls.</p> <p>A policy titled Vehicle Transfer dated 6/2/21 directed staff to park the vehicle in a flat area with smooth surface and place the gait belt on the resident before transferring unless otherwise contraindicated.</p> <p>FACILITY RESPONSE:</p>			
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