

TO THE STUDENT

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Welcome to the exciting world of health care! During the Certified In-Home Aide (CIHA) course you will learn the correct way to perform many different basic in-home procedures. Your role as a CIHA is vitally important to the client, the client's family, and the other members of the health care team.

In-Home Aides are vital to the operation of in-home providers. Each client you care for has individual needs and preferences. The client's Service Plan will guide you as you provide quality care for them.

Because the In-Home Aide provides care that affects the client's health and safety, state, and professional requirements regulate the training and practice of CIHAs. As an In-Home Aide you will have more one-on-one contact with the client than any other member of the team; therefore, you have a tremendous impact on their care and the quality of their life.

This text is designed to provide you with the basic information needed to become a Certified In-Home Aide in the state of Missouri. However, individual agencies may have policies and procedures that vary from the information contained in this text. As an employee of a home health care agency, you should become familiar with the policies and procedures set forth by your employer.

The information contained in each lesson provides a foundation upon which future knowledge and skills can be built if you wish to continue your education by becoming a certified nurse assistant, restorative nurse assistant, certified medication technician, or a licensed nurse.

Although this text was up-to-date when it was written, each day changes occur in technology and new discoveries are made that affect how in-home care is provided. Your instructor will provide you with additional information as it becomes available to enhance the learning process. If you have questions regarding new information, contact your instructor for clarification.

The field of health care is exciting and dynamic. Always try to remember that the most important thing about being an In-Home Aide is that you are helping people. Imagine yourself, your friends, or your family as the client receiving in-home care. This will remind you how special and important each person is and will prompt you to treat others as you wish to be treated.