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State revokes license of Extendicare to operate nursing home

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN -- The state plans to revoke Extendicare's license to operate the largest nursing home in Chippewa County after several alleged health care violations.

"The immediate jeopardy violations involve failure to connect a resident to her oxygen supply, failing to provide appropriate care to a diabetic resident who had gone into a coma, and failing to protect residents from sexual abuse by another resident," at Lakeside Nursing and Rehabilitation in the town of Eagle Point, the state said.

The Department of Health and Family Services on Thursday cited Extendicare for 11 state code violations and 23 federal health care citations and said it intends to revoke its license.

Susan Schroeder, director of the department's Bureau of Quality Assurance, said the agency wants to find another operator and does not want to close Lakeside.

Milwaukee-based Extendicare said it will appeal the decision.

Sue Cullen, Extendicare's regional director of operations, said a state-appointed monitor has been at the facility since January and didn't tell officials of such problems.

At 336 beds, the nursing home is the largest in Chippewa County. It has been plagued with a series of serious state and federal violations, including 42 from April to December 2003.

After going through the nursing home in May and June, government officials issued Lakeside three federal violations at the "immediate jeopardy" level, the most severe violation, and three federal violations of "actual harm."

Lakeside also was issued five state violations for what the state says were conditions that directly threaten the health, safety and welfare of residents.

Two residents developed serious pressure ulcers. One died, while the other needed 84 days of hospitalization for the sores to heal, the state said.