

To: All Providers Participating in Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director 
Date: April 8, 2020
Re: General Statewide COVID-19 Long-Term Care Facility Quarantines

Nebraska Medicaid is committed to ensuring resident safety for our most vulnerable citizens in long-term care and assisted living facilities. In order to do so, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is modifying certain policies in regards to requirements for licensure of temporary settings, discharge and admission for facility to facility transfers. In the event that a facility has multiple residents who are positive for COVID-19 and a quarantine becomes necessary DHHS will be able to assist providers and residents to act quickly and efficiently to protect and provide necessary care for the elderly and disabled.

Nebraska Medicaid has worked with Public Health to identify ways to modify the facility to facility transfer process during this COVID emergency. If the resident is transferred due to COVID-19 circumstances the sending facility must agree the resident will return after the emergency.

Statewide Processes for Facility to Facility Transfers due to COVID-19:

All facility types will follow their established emergency preparedness plans in order to facilitate evacuation of residents in a safe and orderly manner. Public Health has waived the licensing requirement of an onsite visit for all facilities that were currently closed and for wings/increased beds of facilities attached to current licensed facilities. Public Health has also temporarily dually certified facilities up to the maximum bed capacity for all facilities that have requested this. DHHS recommends residents shelter in place and quarantine, isolate or cohort residents in the section of the facility that has been temporarily licensed.

Sending Facility:

- Facility will complete an abbreviated version of discharge paperwork to expedite the transfer of resident(s) and transmit through normal processes.
- Send to the receiving facility the resident's Face Sheet, Medication Treatment List, current Care Plan, Advanced Directives and all prescription medications on hand.
- If the transfer is not emergent, the facility will send a sufficient amount of clothing and all durable medical equipment owned/rented or leased by the resident and an inventory sheet.
- For residents in a nursing facility, MLTC will email the most current comprehensive assessment (MDS) (via secure email) to the receiving facility to expedite the admission assessment and set the resident care level for payment of claims.

Receiving Facility:

- Receiving facility will complete the required entry paperwork (MDS or Waiver). The facility will complete the admission assessment and resident care plan or resident service agreement (MLTC will send the most recent comprehensive MDS assessment for SNF/NF residents).
- Residents whose medical necessity requires an ambulance transports must have a physician's order to receive ambulance transport service payment.
- The receiving facility will provide the required resident supplies and equipment.
- If the receiving facility is an assisted living facility (ALF) accepting a skilled nursing facility resident, Public Health has waived the 21 day limit for complex nursing interventions, when the ALF can provide the interventions.

Medicaid Payment Processes for Facility to Facility Transfers due to COVID-19:

All Medicaid enrolled providers will follow their established emergency preparedness plans in order to facilitate transfers and payment for Medicaid recipients.

Sending facility is owned by same corporation/owner as the receiving facility:

- If the sending facility is a SNF/NF, the facility will continue to submit claims for room and board and the corporation/owner will reconcile payments between the two facilities and a discharge return anticipated (DRA) will not be completed.
- If the sending facility is an ALF, no waiver discharge paperwork will be required and the sending facility will submit claims. The corporation would determine how to reconcile payments between the two facilities. This also applies to transfers between a NF and an ALF owned by the same corporation/owner.
- When a SNF/NF resident is transferred to an ALF, Public Health has waived the 21 days of complex nursing interventions, when the ALF can provide complex nursing interventions.
- The receiving facility will implement all services identified in the SNF/NF care plan or ALF service plan.

Sending Facility is owned by a different corporation/owner than the receiving facility:

- If the sending facility is a SNF/NF, payment will transfer to the receiving facility. For this scenario, the sending facility must complete an abbreviated discharge return anticipated (DRA) MDS, Section A only.
- If the sending facility is an ALF, the facility will work with Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to file paperwork for the waiver discharge and payment will transfer to the receiving facility.
- MLTC will **increase bed hold days up to 90 days** to ensure the resident will return to the resident's facility. It is important to note the leave days will be therapeutic leave days (unless the resident goes to the hospital). In addition, if the sending facility fills the resident's bed, the bed hold days will stop.
- If the receiving facility is a SNF/NF, the facility must complete the new entry Multi Data Set (MDS) assessment. The facility must complete an admission assessment (MDS) to set the resident's payment level. MLTC will send a pdf file with the most recent comprehensive MDS for reference during the admission assessment process.
- If the receiving facility is an ALF, the facility must work with HCBS to complete waiver "admission" paperwork.

Transfer to higher/lower LOC:

- Sending facility will discharge the resident per above.
- **Bed hold days will be increased up to 90 days** provided the sending facility does not fill the resident's bed temporarily during the health emergency.
- Receiving facility will admit the resident per above and payment will transfer to the receiving facility.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>