



State of Utah

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Medicare/Medicaid Nursing Facilities, Hospitals and PASRR Evaluators
From: State of Utah Mental Health/Intellectual Disability PASRR Authority
Date: April 1, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waiver for PASRR

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented temporary regulatory flexibility of PASSR requirements from March 1, 2020 through the end of the emergency declaration. Under this flexibility, States are authorized to waive 42 CFR 483.20(k) to allow states and nursing facilities to suspend PASRR Preadmission evaluations for new residents. To implement this temporary change, the Utah Department of Health and Department of Human Services have issued guidelines as follows:

New admissions to Nursing Facilities:

To the greatest extent possible, we ask providers to continue to follow routine PASRR guideline while circumstances permit.

In the event circumstances no longer permit the routine PASRR process to be implemented, a Level I screening must be completed upon admission to the Nursing Facility within three (3) calendar days of admission. This will allow Nursing Facilities to quickly admit residents without the requirement for the PASRR Preadmission process to be completed and allow the facility to easily track residents who require a Level II evaluation. If, upon completing the Level I screening, there is an indication that a PASRR Level II referral is required, the referral must be completed within 25 calendar days of admission.

All referrals must include the following documentation:

- Current history and physical;
- Current physician orders – including medication and treatment orders; and
- Complete Level I screening

The Local Mental Health PASRR office and/or DSPD will notify the Nursing Facility that the referral was received and give a timeline of when an evaluator will call to set up an appointment to complete the evaluation. All contact information with the PASRR office and/or DSPD must be documented on the Level I screening by the referring agency.

MEMORANDUM

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The Hospital PASRR Exemption (less than 30 day stay order) is being suspended during this time in order to decrease the burden to Hospitals who are in need to rapidly discharge to the Nursing Facility. Please follow the guidelines listed above for new admissions.

The Blanket Waiver allows the Preadmission PASRR Level II Evaluation to be completed after admission to the Nursing Facility. There are no changes to any other PASRR timelines or regulations.