



**To: Medicaid Nursing Home Providers**

**From: Robert R. Neall, Secretary** 

**Re: COVID-19 #10: Temporary Non-Enforcement of Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Requirements**

**Issued Date: April 1, 2020**

**Effective Date: April 1, 2020**

**NOTE: Please ensure appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this guidance document.**

### **Background**

On March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency due to disease (“COVID-19”) caused by the novel coronavirus. The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, and was previously declared a nationwide public health emergency on January 31, 2020 (retroactive to January 27, 2020).

An outbreak of disease due to COVID-19 first occurred in the Hubei Province, China, in late 2019, and has currently been detected in more than 109 countries, including the United States. COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease, resulting in illness or death, caused by person-to-person spread of the novel coronavirus.

The measures outlined in this document are restricted to use during the emergency declared by Governor Hogan to deal with the outbreak of COVID-19 and will expire immediately at the end of the declared emergency or revised by additional orders such that the Secretary’s authority to issue this guidance no longer exists.

### **Temporary Non-Enforcement of Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Health by the laws of Maryland, including but not limited to Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. Sections 18-102 and 18-103, to prevent the spread of disease and control communicable diseases, I hereby provide notice of the Department’s intent not to enforce requirements related to the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR). The intent of this non-enforcement policy is to assist nursing facilities in meeting the many challenges they are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Waiver for PASRR Level I Screens and Level II Evaluations***

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have agreed to waive the requirement that PASRR Level I screens and Level II evaluations be completed prior to nursing facility (NF) admission. Effective immediately and until further notice, new admissions can be treated like exempted hospital discharges. Nursing facilities (NF) will be given up to 30 days following NF admission to complete the Level I screen. If the screen is positive, NFs shall refer the resident for Resident Review no later than 30 days after admission. The local health departments will conduct a Resident Review as soon as possible.

Normally, PASRR reviews do not need to be updated for residents being transferred between NFs, provided that the discharging NF forwards the documentation to the admitting NF. In the event of an emergency transfer where the admitting NF is unable to obtain documents from the discharging NF, the admitting NF can conduct a Level I screen, and request a Level II Resident Review if necessary, during the first few days of admission as part of the initial assessment.

### ***Temporary Deferment for Minimum Data Set (MDS) Validation***

The Department and its utilization control agent, Telligen, will defer conducting MDS Validation in nursing facilities. This deferment will be in effect until the Maryland Department of Health deems it safe for reviewers to visit nursing facilities again.

Any questions regarding this communication may be directed to the Medicaid Program as follows:

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410-767-4003 / [marlana.hutchinson@maryland.gov](mailto:marlana.hutchinson@maryland.gov)

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### **Additional Information**

For Medicaid-related Coronavirus updates, visit [mmcp.health.maryland.gov](https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov)

For questions about the Coronavirus, visit [coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov).

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