



April 20, 2020

Dear Nursing Facility Providers:

This message is intended to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated and approved PASRR-related process changes through Georgia's 1135 Waiver request in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMS is empowered to take proactive steps through 1135 waivers, where applicable, exercising regulatory flexibilities to help healthcare providers contain the spread of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

As a result, the following waivers are in effect, with a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020 through the end of the emergency declaration.

1. Waive Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR). CMS is waiving 42 C.F.R. § 483.20(k), allowing nursing homes to admit new residents who have not received Level 1 or Level 2 Preadmission Screening. Level 1 screening may be performed post admission and if indicated, Level 2 assessments will follow as described in 801.1b of the Nursing Facility Services Policy Manual.

On or before the 30th day of admission, nursing facilities will submit the Level I PASRR request via the web portal access. In keeping with current policy, for those individuals with a mental illness (MI) or intellectual disability (ID) diagnosis the request will be referred for the Level 2 review. Please note that the temporary waiver allows deferral of the Level I for 30 days but must be performed on or before the 30th day following admission.

No changes to the GAMMIS system will be necessary as a Prior Authorization (PA) is not required for the first 30 days of NF billing.

2. Three (3) Day Prior Hospitalization. Using the authority under Section 1812(f) of the Act, CMS is waiving the requirement for a 3-day prior hospitalization for coverage of a SNF stay, which provides temporary emergency coverage of SNF services without a qualifying hospital stay, for those people who experience dislocations, or are otherwise affected by COVID-19. In addition, for certain beneficiaries who recently exhausted their SNF benefits, it authorizes renewed SNF coverage without first having to start a new benefit period (this waiver will apply only for those beneficiaries who have been delayed or prevented by the emergency itself from



commencing or completing the process of ending their current benefit period and renewing their SNF benefits that would have occurred under normal circumstances).

3. Reporting Minimum Data Set. CMS is waiving 42 C.F.R. § 483.20 to provide relief to SNFs on the timeframe requirements for Minimum Data Set assessments and transmission.
4. Staffing Data Submission. CMS is waiving 42 C.F.R. § 483.70(q) to provide relief to long-term care facilities on the requirements for submitting staffing data through the Payroll-Based Journal system.

The latest COVID-19 guidance can be found on the Georgia Medicaid website at <https://dch.georgia.gov/>.

Additional questions related to this guidance or other concerns related to the COVID-19 National State of Emergency can be submitted through the dedicated e-mail address: Medicaid.PCKCOVID19@dch.ga.gov. Thank you for your continued participation in the Georgia Medicaid Program.