



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

June 12, 2017

ALTSA NH #2017-016
UPDATE REGARDING RESOURCE UTILIZATION GROUP:
REDUCTION FOR MEDICAID RESIDENTS IN THE LOW ACUITY RUG GROUPS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

[ALTSA NH #2016-012](#) was issued on May 17, 2016, detailing a reduction for Medicaid residents in the PA1-PC1 Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs). Changes to requirements and instructions regarding referrals and tracking were later issued in [ALTSA NH #2016-031](#).

The requirement in [ESHB 2376](#) to assist 96 individuals to relocate to the community was met in March of 2017. Nursing facilities will no longer be required to submit referrals for every resident identified as being in the low acuity RUG categories (PA1, PA2, PB1, PB2 or PC1). Any tracking necessary will occur through the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment. The following policies continue to be in place:

- 1) As of this date, there has been no change to the downward adjustment in case mix that was issued in 2016 by [ESHB 2376 and later clarified in ALTSA NH #2016-031](#).
- 2) For new admissions, submit DSHS Form [10-570](#) through Intake to request a NF Level of Care (NFLOC) determination from Home and Community Services per the [NH Billing Guide and the instructions on the form](#).
- 3) ALTSA believes in and supports client choice in regards to where an eligible individual chooses to live and receive services. ALTSA will inform any individual who desires to know about alternatives to nursing home care of the options and services available in assisted living facilities, adult family homes and in-home.

The Intake and Referral process should be followed for all residents indicating a desire to know more about their options for care, regardless of RUG or behavior score. If you know a resident is interested in discharge, submit the Intake and Referral form noting the client's interest in learning more about community options in Section 5. Check the appropriate Assessment Information of Section 5 if you know which the client is interested in [in-home, Assisted Living (AL), Adult (Enhanced) Resident Care (E/ARC) or Adult Family Home (AFH)].

If you have questions and/or need additional information, please contact Debbie Blackner, Systems Change Specialist, at benned@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 725-2557 or your provider association.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"