



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

November 13, 2020

AL TSA: NH #2020-086

ADMISSION INCENTIVE: HOSPITAL DISCHARGES TO NURSING HOMES

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

This message is sent on behalf of AL TSA's Home and Community Services Division.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has caused shifting priorities in medical and long-term care settings across the country. Once again, we have a critical need to create capacity in acute care hospitals to serve those who need emergency and intensive care during this ongoing outbreak.

One of the top priorities of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is to work with patients who no longer have a need for acute care in a hospital to transition to alternative settings. This will create capacity for hospitals to serve individuals who need acute care that can only be provided in a hospital setting. Earlier this year, DSHS responded to the COVID emergency by implementing a limited time exceptional rate. Ongoing partnering with skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and hospitals expedited SNF admissions for nearly 250 individuals. In addition, the majority of these individuals were successful in transitioning back into their homes or community settings within 60 days of their initial admission.

DSHS is approving the following actions:

Home and Community Services will immediately implement a SNF admission incentive

Individuals with both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligible) newly admitting to nursing facilities from acute care hospitals during this period will receive a one-time incentive payment of \$6000 when:

- 1) The Individual admits on or before 12/31/2020.
- 2) The Department receives a Nursing Facility Notice of Action confirming Admission date
- 3) The Department has confirmed that this is a new admission. Readmissions are not eligible for this incentive.

All nursing home admission, transfer and discharge rules continue to apply.

Home and Community Services is also expanding COVID positive unit capacity in Nursing Facilities to allow COVID-19 positive residents from other residential care or acute care settings to move to a setting where they can receive care and reduce the risk of COVID -19 virus transmission to other residents and staff.

We know that the COVID-19 outbreak continues to have significant impacts on our nursing homes and we appreciate your willingness to partner and collaborate to meet this emergent need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Goehring".

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"