



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

January 21, 2021

AMENDED: January 28, 2021

ALTSA: NH #2021-005
CONTINUED INCENTIVES TO SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES
THAT ACCEPT ADMISSION FROM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

This letter is amended to announce the extension of the Nursing Facility Admission Incentives to March 15, 2021.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has caused shifting priorities in medical and long-term care settings across the country. We continue to 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 continuing 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. In March and November of 2020, DSHS responded to the COVID emergency by implementing Nursing Facility Admission Incentives, funding for the most recent of these incentives ended December 31, 2020. Ongoing partnering with skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and hospitals expedited SNF admissions for nearly 600 individuals during the two incentive periods.

Beginning in January DSHS, Home and Community Services (HCS) Division, received approval to continue to offer incentives to SNFs who accept admissions from acute hospitals.

DSHS is approving the following actions:

- **Home and Community Services will immediately implement a SNF admission incentive for transitions from acute care hospitals.**
- Individuals with both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligible) newly admitting to nursing facilities from acute care hospitals during this period will receive a \$100 add on to the Medicaid nursing facility rate for a period not to exceed six months when:
 - 1) A client specific approval letter is requested and approved by Home and Community Services prior to admission.
 - 2) The Individual admits on or before **March 15, 2021**.
 - 3) The Department receives a Nursing Facility Notice of Action confirming Admission date.
 - 4) The Department has confirmed that this is a new Nursing Facility admission.
Readmissions and Nursing Facility transfers are not eligible for this incentive.

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

Dear NH Administrator: Admission Incentives
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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. If you have any questions, please contact Julie.cope@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 725-2529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Candace Goehring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"