



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

August 9, 2021  
**Amended October 29, 2021**

**AL TSA: NH #2021-060**

**ADMISSION INCENTIVE: HOSPITAL DISCHARGES TO NURSING HOMES**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

**This letter is amended to inform providers that DSHS, Home and Community Services (HCS) Division, received approval to extend the incentives to SNFs who accept new resident admissions from acute hospitals through December 31, 2021.**

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak continues to impact medical and long-term care settings across the country. As the state is responding to another surge, 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 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. As during the previous surges in 2020 and earlier in 2021, DSHS responded to the COVID emergency by implementing Nursing Facility Admission Incentives. The strong partnering with skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and hospitals expedited SNF admissions for over 800 individuals during these previous incentive periods.

On August 9, 2021, DSHS, Home and Community Services (HCS) Division, received approval to offer incentives to SNFs who accept new resident admissions from acute hospitals and is again requesting additional assistance with expediting transitions.

DSHS is approving the following actions:

**Effective 8/9/21, HCS will 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 one-time \$6000 admission incentive when:

- 1) A client specific approval letter is requested and approved by Home and Community Services prior to admission. This approval letter is required to receive the incentive.
- 2) The Individual admits to the nursing facility during 8/9/2021 through 12/31/2021.

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- 3) The Department receives a Nursing Facility [Notice of Action \(Form 15-031\)](#) confirming Admission date.
- 4) The Department has confirmed that this is a new Nursing Facility admission from an acute care hospital. Nursing Facility readmissions and nursing facility transfers are not eligible for this incentive.

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

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.

Please feel free to reach out to [SNFAdmissionIncentive@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:SNFAdmissionIncentive@dshs.wa.gov) with any questions or for clarifications about this process.

Sincerely,



Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

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