



OPERATIONAL MEMO

TITLE:	PASRR COVID-19 UPDATE
SUPERSEDES NUMBER:	N/A
EFFECTIVE DATE:	MARCH 13, 2020
DIVISION AND OFFICE:	CASE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY PERFORMANCE AND OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIVING
PROGRAM AREA:	PREADMISSION SCREENING AND RESIDENT REVIEW (PASRR)
KEY WORDS:	PASRR, CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, NURSING FACILITIES, HOSPITALS
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APPROVED BY: AMANDA LOFGREN	

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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) stakeholders of temporary operational changes to the PASRR process. The PASRR process requires all applicants to Medicaid-certified Nursing Facilities be given a preliminary assessment (Level I) to determine whether they might have **Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and/or Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD)**. Those individuals who test positive at Level I are then referred for a more in-depth evaluation (Level II). The result of the Level II evaluation provides a determination of need, most appropriate setting, and a set of recommendations for services to inform the individual's care plan (42 CFR 483.100-138).

The audience for this communication includes eQHealth Solutions, PASRR Reviewers and Evaluators, Hospitals, Nursing Facilities, Single Entry Point agencies, Community Centered Boards, and all agencies and individuals involved in the PASRR process.

Information:

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (Department) is working with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on temporary changes to the PASSR process and regarding the COVID-19 presence in Colorado. Effective March 13, 2020, the Department is making the following provisions to ensure the safety and health of PASSR participants:

- Pre-Admission Level I Identification Screen (PAS Level I) for individuals discharging from a hospital or admitting from the community, will be reviewed by eQHealth and approved for a 60-day time limited stay regardless of intended length of stay, rehab or Long-Term Care. The accepting Nursing Facility will complete a Post Admission Level I Update (PAL) upon the expiration of the 60 days (on the 60th day). This applies if a Level II evaluation cannot be completed due to COVID-19 concerns.
- Expiring time limited stay approvals, Advanced Group Authorizations (AGA), that require a Level II evaluation can be reviewed and approved for a 60-day time limited stay extension if a Level II evaluation cannot be completed due to COVID-19 concerns. The Nursing Facility will complete a Post Admission Level I Update (PAL) upon the expiration of the 60 days (on the 60th day).
- Nursing Facility admissions pending on the completion of Level II evaluation already received by eQHealth, can be approved for a 60-day time limited stay if a Level II evaluation cannot be completed due to COVID-19 concerns. The Level II Evaluator shall complete the Level II evaluation upon the expiration of the 60 days in these cases.
- PASSR Level II evaluations may be conducted through telephonic or other electronic modalities to complete Level II Evaluations to ensure the health, safety and well-being of clients and PASSR staff.
- State PASSR Vendor and everyone involved in the PASSR process should follow the guidelines set by participating facilities in light of the COVID-19.
- The state PASSR Vendor and those involved in the PASSR process should follow COVID-19 precautions, pay attention for potential COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Those who have traveled outside of the United States may not have in-person contact with members for a period of 14 days following return from travel.

We will continue to assess and reassess our process and procedures to ensure the safety and health of members of our community that participate in the PASSR process. We are committed to keeping our communities safe, and we appreciate your partnership toward helping us to fulfill that mission.

Additional resources regarding precautions are available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) (<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe>) websites for the latest on what you can do to ensure you, your clients, and the community remain safe.

Attachment(s):

None

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