



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 4, 2024

DAL: NH DAL 24-14
DHDTTC DAL 24-11

Subject: Reminder Regarding Discharges to Skilled
Nursing Facilities

Dear Hospital Discharge Planners and Nursing Home Administrators:

Recently, it has come to the attention of the Department of Health (“Department”) that certain hospitals failed to disclose the full extent of a patients’ known medical status to the skilled nursing facility where the patient requested admission. Because all residents are to receive the care they need, any lack of information, irrespective of intent, can have a profound impact on the patient’s treatment course and overall health outcomes. The purpose of this correspondence is to remind hospital discharge planners and nursing home administrators of expectations related to the transition of care and treatment of all patients.

Pursuant to federal regulations at 42 CFR § 482.43 and New York State regulations at 10 NYCRR § 405.9(h), the Department reminds hospitals that an effective discharge planning process is patient-centered and designed to reduce the factors that can lead to readmission, and upon transfer to a post-acute setting, hospitals must include all necessary medical information pertaining to the patient’s current course of illness and treatment, post-discharge goals, and treatment preferences.

In addition, skilled nursing facilities are reminded of the expectation to perform a thorough assessment of incoming residents’ functional capabilities via the mandatory clinical assessment process, i.e., the Minimum Data Set, and ensure the completion of the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review. The standardized, efficient assessment is inclusive of resident input and provides a foundation for comprehensive, individualized care planning, and an opportunity for the Interdisciplinary Team to identify significant status changes that might impact a residents’ servicing or programming needs. Therefore, skilled nursing facilities who are challenged by their residents’ needs are encouraged to explore their pre- and post-admission practices and provide appropriate in-servicing if needed.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this correspondence, please write to the appropriate program mailbox: nhinfo@health.ny.gov or hospinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

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and ICF/IID Surveillance

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