




## **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Health Plan Advisory**

**No. 16-04**

DATE: December 20, 2016

TO: Nebraska Heritage Health Plans

FROM: Calder Lynch, Director   
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

BY: Heather Leschinsky, Deputy Director  
Delivery Systems

RE: Notification of Nursing Home Admission of Heritage Health Members

This Health Plan Advisory is being issued to provide instructions to Heritage Health Plans on the processes regarding what is expected of the plans when notified of an admission to a nursing facility (NF).

NFs have been informed that when a member is admitted to their facility they should inform the member's plan. Another method of notification that a member has been admitted to a NF will come from the agencies who complete the Level of Care (LOC) evaluation for Medicaid. The LOC evaluation is completed by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) for people age 65 and over and by the League of Human Dignity (LHD) for people age 18-65 years of age. This evaluation indicates whether the individual is appropriate for NF level of care according to *Medicaid* criteria. These agencies are being informed that when they receive a referral from a NF for someone eligible for managed care, they should inform the Heritage Health plan that one of their members has been admitted to a NF.

Once the plans have been notified by the NF or the LOC evaluation agency of the admission, the plan must contact the NF to determine whether this admission would be considered a skilled stay and whether the admission is medically necessary.

If the stay is determined to be skilled this should be communicated to the NF and further required information can be requested at that time. If it is determined that the stay is not considered skilled, Medicaid Fee-For-Service will cover the stay provided the individual meets the Medicaid NF LOC criteria. The information regarding the skilled stay coverage and the dates of coverage by the Heritage Health plan must be communicated to Medicaid via the Nursing Facility Skilled Stay File.

If you have any questions about this advisory, please contact Joette Novak at [joette.novak@nebraska.gov](mailto:joette.novak@nebraska.gov). Health plans should also copy their contract manager.