


To: All Nursing Facilities Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director 
Date: May 29, 2020
Re: COVID-19 90-Day Bedhold Update

Nebraska Medicaid is committed to ensuring resident safety for our most vulnerable citizens in long-term care and assisted living facilities. In order to do so, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is modifying certain policies in regard to requirements for licensure of temporary settings, discharge and admission for facility-to-facility transfers. In the event that a facility has multiple residents who are positive for COVID-19 and a quarantine becomes necessary, DHHS will be able to assist providers and residents in acting quickly and efficiently to protect and provide necessary care for the elderly and disabled.

Nebraska Medicaid has worked with the Division of Public Health to identify ways to modify the facility-to-facility transfer process during the COVID-19 emergency. If the resident is transferred due to COVID-19 circumstances, the sending facility must agree the resident will return after the emergency.

Bedhold Update:

When a resident of a nursing facility leaves the facility to quarantine in an alternate setting (i.e., designated licensed alternate placement such as an Assisted Living, pop-up facility such as a gymnasium, residential home such as one belonging to a family member, etc.), MLTC will increase bedhold days up to 90 days to ensure the facility re-admits the resident after the quarantine period. A quarantine may be necessary as determined by the facility or the local health department. In addition, a resident may choose to quarantine due to active COVID-19 cases in the facility.

The purpose of the extended bedhold days is to ensure the resident is able to return and not be discharged. If the facility temporarily fills the resident's bed, the payment for bedhold days will stop. However, the hold on the bed will remain for the duration of the 90 days.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>