

**To:** All Nursing Facilities Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program  
**From:** Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director   
**Date:** June 8, 2020  
**Re:** Annual Physical Requirements for Medicaid-Eligible Residents of Long-Term Care Nursing Facilities

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Nebraska Medicaid is committed to ensuring the safety of our most vulnerable citizens living in long-term care nursing facilities. Accordingly and in light of the current public health emergency, we are modifying certain policies at this time.

For residents of long-term care facilities, federal regulations require that physician's visits occur every 30 days for the first 90 days from the date of admission, and then every 60 days thereafter. During the COVID-19 emergency, telehealth may be used for any of these physician visits.

Additionally, during the COVID-19 emergency, Nebraska Medicaid is waiving the annual physical exam requirement for Medicaid beneficiaries who are residents of long-term care nursing facilities. However, to be clear, providers must still use their medical judgment to meet the specific care needs of long-term care nursing facility residents, whose circumstances in some cases may still require face-to-face visits.

The allowance for telehealth for these physician visits and the waiver of the annual exam are effective March 1, 2020 and continues until the health emergency is declared to be over. If an annual physical exam is delayed due to circumstances described in this bulletin, the exam should be completed in the 6-month period following the end of the declared public health emergency.

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>