

March 9, 2021

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<City> <State> zipcode5-zipcode4

Dear Provider:

RE: Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS) COVID-19 Response: Level of Care Determination (LOCD) End Date Extensions- Nursing Facilities (NF) and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

The purpose of this letter is to allow continuing flexibilities related to the completion of existing LOCDs for beneficiaries who are currently receiving services from Medicaid-certified NFs or PACE with LOCD end dates that fall between March 1, 2021 and August 31, 2021 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). The LOCD is an eligibility tool used to determine functional eligibility of individuals seeking LTSS in a Medicaid-certified NF, MI Choice, PACE, and MI Health Link Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 PHE, MDHHS will extend the end date of existing LOCDs in the Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS) for beneficiaries who are currently receiving services from a Medicaid-certified NF or PACE program where LOCD end dates fall between March 1, 2021 and August 31, 2021.

The extended end dates will be visible in CHAMPS no later than March 1, 2021. The following LOCDs will be extended **an additional 180 days: existing eligible Door LOCDs (Doors 1-8, 67, 77) with end dates of March 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021 for Medicaid-certified NF and PACE enrolled beneficiaries.**

If your beneficiary has an LOCD record that has been extended, no action is needed by the provider or agency. **Medicaid-certified NFs and PACE programs should not conduct LOCDs during this timeframe if there is an existing eligible LOCD in CHAMPS for the beneficiary.** The passive redetermination process continues to run during the PHE and may create a new eligible LOCD record in CHAMPS for a beneficiary.

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LOCD Door 8 records with approval criteria Frailty and approval code 2019 cannot be adopted. If a beneficiary is seeking enrollment and has Door 8- Frailty 2019, the provider must conduct a new LOCD.

At the conclusion of the public health emergency, Medicaid LTSS providers must ensure the beneficiary continues to meet eligibility requirements on an ongoing basis. The provider also retains responsibility for conducting a new LOCD for any beneficiary when there is a significant change in the beneficiary's condition during the PHE.

Enrolled beneficiaries may elect to voluntarily disenroll regardless of LOCD eligibility. Providers must offer discharge planning to beneficiaries who are considering voluntary disenrollment. Discharge planning must take into consideration issues unique to the coronavirus pandemic, including the beneficiary's vaccination status prior to disenrollment. Providers must be aware of the current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding coronavirus variants, vaccine efficacy and other community mitigation strategies as these factors will be relevant to discharge planning. Medicaid-certified NFs must refer beneficiaries seeking information on community based services to the Local Contact Agency for their county (https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_42542_42543_42546_42551-481963--,00.html).

Policy information for the LOCD can be found in the Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Chapter of the MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

MDHHS strongly encourages providers to subscribe to COVID-19 updates at www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Massey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration