

October 5, 2021

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

Dear Provider:

Currently, nursing facilities (NF) may not involuntarily discharge residents and should not conduct the NF Level of Care Determination (LOCD) assessment. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) expects these conditions to remain in effect until the end of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Even with the current PHE restrictions, NF residents may choose to discharge or transition from a NF. The NF should engage the resident or the resident's legal representative in discharge and transition planning, and the planning should take into consideration the resident's health conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the resident's vaccination status, the vaccination status of the people at the resident's next home, and the resident's risks related to co-occurring conditions.

MDHHS has asked Community Transition Services agencies to reach out to NF residents who may be interested in learning about home and community-based services. With this letter, MDHHS is asking NF staff to accommodate this activity by identifying residents who may be interested in receiving information and facilitating visits with Transition Navigators. This may include residents who have expressed an interest in returning to their home or community living, residents who indicated interest in receiving information in response to Section Q of the Resident Assessment Instrument, and residents who may no longer meet the NF level of care.

When meeting with a Transition Navigator, residents will be informed of their right to remain in the NF and their right to plan and implement a community transition. If a resident does not have a home to return to, the Transition Navigator can help them find an affordable and accessible home in the community. This process may take time, so please make referrals as soon as the resident expresses interest in returning to the community. The Transition Navigator can explain the process of finding housing and assist the resident through this process.

If you have residents that would like to receive information on Community Transition Services and other home and community-based services, contact a local Community Transition Services provider. A list is available at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Transition_Agencies.10072020_002_708842_7.pdf. Community Transition Services' hotline can be reached at (833) 686-7700.

Community Transition Services providers will also be contacting you to arrange visits with residents. Your cooperation with this process will be greatly appreciated.

An electronic version of this document is available at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

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