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MEMORANDUM (DPSQA)

To: Nursing Home Providers and Other Long-term Care Facilities

From: Division of Provider Services and Quality Assurance

Date: April 17, 2020

Re: PASRR Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak

The Governor declared a public health emergency on March 12, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Arkansas. In response to this declaration, the Department of Human Services is suspending parts of two rules of the Procedures for Determination of Medical Need for Nursing Home Services: (1) Rule I to the extent it prohibits facilities from admitting individuals with diagnoses or other indicators of mental illness or developmental disability; and, (2) Rule II to the extent it requires the state to complete a Level 2 assessment for mental illness or developmental disability within seven (7) to nine (9) workdays from the date the mental illness or developmental disability is identified by the initial screening.

By suspending these rules, nursing homes will be able to admit individuals with diagnoses or other indicators of mental illness or developmental disability without first getting an assessment and approval by the Office of Long-term Care (OLTC) clearing such individuals for placement in the facility. However, prior to admission, the facility must review the individual's information to ensure the facility can meet the individual's medical and behavioral needs.

In addition, all other state and federal rules related to the determination of medical need and pre-admission screening for mental illness and developmental disability are still in effect. For example, all facilities must still complete and submit to OLTC Forms DMS-703, DMS-787, and DMS-780 (if applicable) as required by Rule I.A. As a reminder, these forms should be submitted to OLTC prior to admission and in all cases within 48 hours of admission. OLTC cannot guarantee Medicaid reimbursement for any applicant admitted prior to approval for medical need by the OLTC.

Likewise, if the completed DMS-787 indicates that an individual has a diagnoses or other indicators of mental illness or developmental disability, all facilities must still also fax the DMS-703, DMS-787, and DMS-780 (if applicable) to Bock Associates as required by Rule II.A.4. If an individual remains in the facility for thirty (30) days, the facility must request, on or before the 30th day, for OLTC to refer the individual to Bock Associates to schedule and complete a Level 2 assessment pursuant to Rule II.B.1. All other rules remain in effect related to the processing of 700 series Forms by OLTC and Bock Associates.

Please keep all records as required by all applicable rules, including licensing rules and Medicaid billing rules. This rule suspension is effective beginning April 2, 2020, and will continue until the end of the emergency declared by the Governor.