



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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Division of Managed Care

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Division of Managed Care (717) 783-6207

AGING PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENTS OF PERSONS WITH AN OTHER RELATED CONDITION WHO ARE EXCEPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

TO: COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHAIRPERSONS, NON-PROFIT AAA GOVERNING BOARDS

COPIES FOR: EXECUTIVE STAFF
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING
PA COUNCIL ON AGING
PA ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING
DPW OFFICE OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
PA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COMPTROLLER
ADMINISTRATION ON AGING
REGION III

FROM: 
RICHARD BROWDIE
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Directive is to transmit to OPTIONS sites information on the disposition of evaluations of individuals who have an Other Related Condition who enter a nursing facility (NF) as an exceptional admission.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Welfare, Office of Medical Assistance, has asked the Department of Aging to share the following policy with the OPTIONS sites.

INFORMATION: A person with an Other Related Condition may enter a nursing facility (NF) as an exceptional admission without an OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV) if he/she meets one of the following criteria as indicated on his/her PASARR-ID (ID) form:

1. Person is an Exempted Hospital Discharge (30 Days)

2. Person requires Respite Care (14 Day)
3. Person is in a Coma or functions at Brain Stem Level.

This is important since the Office of Social Programs (OSP) delegates final determination decisions for NF residents with an Other Related Condition to its contractors (CSPPPD), but retains similar responsibilities at its headquarters office for applicants in the target group. Therefore, persons who enter NFs as exceptional admissions are, by definition, NF residents and under the purview of the CSPPPD contractors.

The purpose of this Directive is to present five (5) scenarios and give direction as to what action should be taken by OPTIONS, Utilization Management Review Teams (UMRT) and CSPPPDs. There may be other scenarios that can occur infrequently. These need to be discussed with appropriate headquarters personnel (Division of Long Term Care Client Services for UMRTs; Bureau of Home and Community Based Services for OPTIONS and Office of Social Programs for the CSPPPDs).

The scenarios assume that the person was correctly ID'd as an exceptional admission. Situations discovered where this exception was inappropriately used must be discussed with the headquarters staff previously identified.

SCENARIO ONE

The exceptional admission required Medical Assistance (MA) funding from day of admission.

ACTION TAKEN

OPTIONS: OPTIONS treats this application as a normal NF eligibility determination. The MA-51 is sent to the County Assistance Office (CAO) so that the CAO can determine financial eligibility for NF services. OPTIONS should review the ID to ensure that the exceptional admission criteria is met. No OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV) is done.

UMRT: No Action

CSPPPD: The CSPPPD Contractor has no role in this scenario and will receive no information.

SCENARIO TWO

An exceptional admission enters a NF as a private pay (any funding source except MA) and stays after a 14 day respite care; 30 day hospital exemption, or his/her coma or brain stem condition improves to the point where the need for NF services and specialized services needs to be evaluated. The person continues to be private pay. Per instructions in Medical Assistance Bulletin "Reporting Procedures for Residents Targeted Under OBRA '87 and OBRA '90" the NF is responsible for reporting this change in condition of a targeted

resident on a MA-408 form to the Division of Long Term Care Client Services. A UMRT will contact the NF to determine pay status and if person continues to be private pay arrange to do necessary evaluation.

ACTION TAKEN

OPTIONS: None

UMRT: UMRT does necessary OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV). The package of the resident's need for NF services and specialized services is sent to the appropriate CSPPPD Contractor since the person is a resident of a NF.

CSPPPD: The CSPPPD Contractor receives the assessment package and related information from the UMRT and renders a final determination for the resident. If applicable, the CSPPPD Contractor provides specialized and/or relocation services.

SCENARIO THREE

An exceptional admission enters a NF as private pay (any funding source except MA) and needs to stay after a 14 day respite care; 30 day hospital exemption, or his/her coma or brain stem condition improves to the point where the need for NF services and specialized services needs to be evaluated. THE PERSON ALSO REQUIRES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING TO CONTINUE HIS/HER NF STAY. Per instructions in Medical Assistance Bulletin "Reporting Procedures for Residents Targeted Under OBRA '87 and OBRA '90" the NF is responsible for reporting this change in condition of a targeted resident on a MA-408 form to the Division of Long Term Care Client Services. A UMRT will contact the NF to determine pay status. If person is going to apply for MA benefits, this evaluation becomes the responsibility of the appropriate OPTIONS site. The UMRT is responsible for notifying the OPTIONS site to ensure coordination.

ACTION TAKEN

OPTIONS: OPTIONS does OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV) and NF eligibility (for MA funding) recommendation. The package of the resident's needs for NF services and specialized services is sent to the appropriate CSPPPD Contractor since the person is a resident of a NF.

UMRT: After receiving a MA-408 from a NF this evaluation is referred to the appropriate OPTIONS site.

CSPPPD: The CSPPPD Contractor receives the assessment package and related information from OPTIONS and renders a final determination for the resident. The CSPPPD Contractor signs the MA-51 (either authorizing NF services or denying NF services) and sends it to the appropriate CAO. If applicable, the CSPPPD Contractor provides specialized and/or relocation services.

SCENARIO FOUR

A former exceptional admission who has received an OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV) from UMRT spends down to where MA funding is needed to pay for his/her NF services. OPTIONS does the required NF assessment and determines that continued NF services are recommended.

ACTION TAKEN

OPTIONS: OPTIONS sites should see an ID that has been stamped by the UMRT, and a copy of the determination letter sent to the individual. * OPTIONS does the NF assessment but NO OBRA work is done. OPTIONS signs and sends the completed MA-51 to the appropriate CAO.

*NOTE - If new or additional information is obtained that changes the ID, this must be discussed with Headquarters staff previously discussed.

UMRT: No Action

CSPPPD: No Action

SCENARIO FIVE

A former exceptional admission who has received an OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV) from UMRT spends down to where MA funding is needed to pay for his/her NF services. OPTIONS does the required NF assessment and determines that continued NF services are no longer recommended.

ACTION TAKEN

OPTIONS: OPTIONS sites complete the NF assessment and a new OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV). * This information, including the completed MA-51 (OPTIONS does not sign) is forwarded to the appropriate CSPPPD since the person is a NF resident.

*NOTE: This is new policy. A new OBRA evaluation (PASARR-EV), however, is required only for ORC targets who are nursing facility residents as described in this Scenario.

UMRT: No Action

CSPPPD: The CSPPPD Contractor receives the assessment package and related information from OPTIONS and renders a final determination for the resident. The CSPPPD Contractor signs the MA-51 (either authorizing NF services or denying NF services) and sends it to the appropriate CAO. If applicable, the CSPPPD Contractor provides specialized and/or relocation services.

ORIGIN:

Questions regarding this Directive should be addressed to the Bureau of Home and Community Based Services.