**COVID-19: 3 Day Qualifying Hospital Stay Waiver**

March 17, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

I want to make you aware of how our campus can provide immediate help for your clients. On Friday, March 13th, 2020, the Trump Administration announced some regulatory flexibility to assist healthcare providers combat and contain the COVID-19 virus.  Within this announcement, the Trump Administration empowered CMS to take action thru several waivers made available.  These changes can be very helpful to your clients that need direct admission to our campus.

CMS is waiving the requirement at Section 1812(f) of the Social Security Act for a 3-day prior hospitalization for coverage of a skilled nursing facility (SNF) stay provide temporary emergency coverage of (SNF services without a qualifying hospital stay), for those people who need to be transferred as a result of the effect of a disaster or emergency. In addition, residents exhausting their current benefit period (using up their 100 days) will be eligible for a new benefit period without the normal 60-day break in skilled nursing services.

Please see the below summary of changes:

**Admissions to our campus are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:**

1. Attached is our Emergency Admission Kit, for your convenience, to prepare you and your client with the information we need to make their transition as easy as possible.
2. Your clients DO NOT require a qualifying 3 night stay for access to skilled benefit. They can be admitted straight from the ER, home and physician offices to our facilities and be a skilled resident following an evaluation from the physician to determine the skilled need.
3. Your clients MUST require a skilled service, as always, to have access to their skilled benefits and the benefit available.
4. Your clients who have exhausted their current benefit period (using up their 100 days) may be eligible for a new benefit period without the normal 60-day break in skilled nursing services.
5. Our campus MUST still contact advantage plans for authorizations under these changed rules.

To help further streamline the process, please contact me directly at 812-318-0416 and I will be happy to work through the process with your clients and their family. We are committed to working in the best interest of our partners and their clients.

Kindest regards,

**April Williams**

**Senior Community Service Representative**

***A specialist in providing education and direction in senior health.***

**812-318-0416 mobile**

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