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Informational Notice

Date: 9/23/10

To: Enrolled Long Term Acute Care Hospitals: Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Patient Accounts Managers, and Health Information Management Directors

Re: Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) Hospital Quality Improvement Transfer Program

The recent Long Term Acute Care Hospital Quality Improvement Transfer Program Act (Public Act 096-1130) impacts both general hospitals and long term acute care hospitals, and patients in need of long term acute care. The program's intent is to better utilize the specialized services available, enhance the continuity and coordination of care for these patients, and improve patients' health outcomes.

A hospital operating as a long term acute care hospital must be designated by Medicare as a long term acute care hospital as described in Section 1886(d)(1)(B)(iv)(I) of the Social Security Act, and have an average length of stay greater than 25 days. An LTAC hospital must be enrolled with the department as a provider under the department's medical programs.

Effective with admissions October 1, 2010 and after, **all** LTAC admissions will be subject to mandatory concurrent review by the department's Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). The department's concurrent review process is described in the [Handbook for Hospital Services](#), Topic H-266.31

To participate in the LTAC Hospital Quality Improvement Transfer Program, the LTAC hospital must do the following:

- Operate as an LTAC hospital
- Employ one-half of a full-time employee (FTE) designated for case management for every 15 patients admitted to the hospital
- Maintain on-site physician coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Maintain on-site respiratory therapy coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The LTAC hospital must also execute an Agreement for Participation with the department. A copy of the Agreement is attached. Completed Agreements may be sent to the following address:

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Provider Participation Unit
Post Office Box 19114
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9114
Fax Number (217) 557-8800

LTAC hospitals that qualify for the Long Term Acute Care Hospital Quality Improvement Transfer Program are eligible for a supplemental per diem rate if the following requirements are met:

- The patient, upon admission to the LTAC hospital, meets LTAC hospital criteria; and
- The patient's care is primarily paid for by the department under Title XIX (Medicaid), or care is primarily paid for by the department after the patient has exhausted his or her benefits under Medicare.

LTAC hospital criteria are nationally-recognized, evidence-based criteria that have been publicly tested and includes criteria specific to an LTAC hospital for admission, continuing stay, and discharge. The department has chosen InterQual as its criteria for this program and it is available from McKesson Health Solutions at 800-522-6780.

The Act identifies additional and specific information regarding quality and outcome measurement data, LTAC hospital administrative duties, and rate information. Please review the Act in its entirety at: <http://www.ilga.gov/>

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to the Bureau of Comprehensive Health Services at 1-877-782-5565.

Theresa Eagleson, Administrator
Division of Medical Programs