

November 20, 2020

Washington Clients

Subject: Admission Incentive: Hospital Discharges to Nursing Homes
ALTSA: NH#2020-086

On November 13, 2020, the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services released a notice that nursing facilities would be eligible for a \$6,000 incentive payment for certain admissions. The program was set up to move patients out of the acute care setting to make room for individuals that need inpatient services for COVID-19.

We have reviewed the notice and have followed up with the Department on some technical questions on program requirements. Here is our understanding of the program.

Eligible Admissions

- The Incentive is in effect for admissions from an acute care hospital occurring November 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
- Payments will be made for patients with Medicare AND Medicaid eligibility only.
- Readmissions are not eligible for the incentive. If a patient has been in your SNF and was transferred to the hospital, and then returned from the hospital, that patient would be considered a readmission and not eligible for the admission incentive. Also, if a patient had been in a SNF and was transferred to the hospital, and was then transferred from the hospital to another SNF, that patient would also be considered a readmission and not eligible.
- The incentive is not based on an expected SNF length of stay.

Documentation

- A Nursing Facility Notice of Action form must be completed. An email can be sent to Julie Cope at julie.cope@dshs.wa.gov, with the specific client name and ID and she will confirm eligibility and issue an incentive letter. These requests may occur prior to the admission from the hospital. Generally, the client specific incentive approval letter will be made the day of request.

Payment

- The Department will review the Notice of Action form to confirm the admission prior to payment authorization.
- Payment will be generated through Home and Community Services submitting an A-19 Invoice confirming the eligible admission.
- Payment will be made to the nursing facility within 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Action. This payment will be processed in the same manner as the COVID Testing funding.

If you have any questions regarding this incentive program, please contact:

Bill Hartung at bill.hartung@billing-services.com, or 509-448-2067 x210

Bill Ulrich at bill.ulrich@billing-services.com, or 509-448-2067 x202