

August 9, 2021

Washington Clients

Subject: Admission Incentive: Hospital Discharges to Nursing Homes  
AL TSA: NH#2021-060

On August 9, 2021, 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 program covers admissions from an acute care hospital from August 9, 2021, through September 30, 2021.
- 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 additional payment. 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 payment is not based on an expected SNF length of stay.

#### Documentation

- A Nursing Facility Notice of Action form must be completed. This Notice of Action may be completed PRIOR to the admission from the hospital. An email can be sent to Julie Cope at [julie.cope@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:julie.cope@dshs.wa.gov), with the specific client name and ID and she will confirm eligibility and issue an incentive letter. This approval letter is required to receive the incentive. Generally, the approval will be made the day of request.

#### Payment

- The Department will review the Notice of Action form and approve the admission for payment.
- 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.

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

Bill Hartung at [bill.hartung@billing-services.com](mailto:bill.hartung@billing-services.com), or 509-448-2067 x210

Bill Ulrich at [bill.ulrich@billing-services.com](mailto:bill.ulrich@billing-services.com), or 509-448-2067 x202