



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

March 20, 2020

**AL TSA: NH #2020-012
HOSPITAL DISCHARGES TO NURSING HOMES**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak caused shifting priorities in medical and long-term care settings across the country. In Washington, we have a critical need to create capacity in acute care hospitals to serve those who need emergency and intensive care during this ongoing outbreak.

One of the top priorities of the Department of Social and Health Services, in partnership with the Health Care Authority, is to work with patients who no longer have a need for acute care in a hospital to transition to alternative settings. This will create capacity for hospitals to serve individuals who need acute care that can only be provided in a hospital setting.

Our primary strategy to create capacity in acute care hospitals is working with participating patients and families to transition to nursing homes. Once in the nursing home, Home and Community Services staff will work the eligible individual and their family to transition to a permanent home and community-based setting of their choice. Nursing homes that admit these patients will receive a \$100 add-on to the Medicaid nursing home rate for a period not to exceed six months. Resident specific approvals of this enhanced rate will be provided up front for billing purposes. This rate add-on will be offered for fee-for-service clients as well as clients served through Medicaid managed care organizations. All nursing home admission, transfer and discharge rules continue to apply.

We know that the COVID-19 outbreak continues to have significant impacts on our nursing homes and we appreciate your willingness to partner and collaborate to meet this emergent need.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"