



Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Senior and Disabilities Services

Better Together | Alaska Nursing Homes Together (ANHT) Conference

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Long Term Care Authorizations

- Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) is responsible for oversight of the long term care (LTC) facility authorization process
- SDS authorizes requests for Medicaid LTC facility placement per regulations at [7 AAC 140.500](#)
- LTC Authorization requests must be submitted to SDS through the Direct Secure Messaging (DSM) system to DSDS.LTC.Authorizations@direct.dhss.akhie.com
- DSM & faxed forms will be replaced by Harmony system



LTCA Form Submission

LTCA requests must be:

- Submitted on the most recent version of the form
- Complete, without missing sections or information
- Submitted to SDS via DSM
- Submitted to SDS prior to admission to the LTC facility

Either the hospital or the facility may submit the form as long as these criteria are met



Working Well

- LTCA forms are being submitted to SDS via DSM instead of via fax
- New form is being utilized
- Collaboration between SDS & ASHNHA to clarify process and make improvements
- Technical assistance opportunities available
 - One on one with SDS staff
 - Quarterly webinar meetings with state staff and providers



Challenges

- **Forms often submitted incomplete:**
 - **Admission dates:** Dates left blank, missing date span, end date “unknown”
 - **Insufficient discharge plan:** left blank, unclear or lacks detail, section is same as previously submitted, indicating no follow up or updates for the plan
 - **Signatures:** Physician signature missing, left blank, what physician signed off on does not match requested service date span
- **Administrative Wait Days (AWD) and Swing Bed Placement:**
 - Must submit LTCA request to SDS for AWD for authorization, per 7 AAC 140.505, prior to placement or transition from acute care to AWD or Swing bed designation.



Challenges

LTC Authorization dates:

- If a LTCA request is submitted incomplete, SDS notifies sender who must submit completed LTCA request in order to get authorization from SDS.
- Once complete, authorization date is aligned with date of original LTCA request.
- If LTCA request is never completed, SDS cannot issue an authorization.



Pre Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

- SDS responsible for oversight of state's PASRR process which requires that each individual, regardless of payment source, be screened for diagnosis of or indicators of mental illness, intellectual disability, or related condition prior to long term care facility placement to ensure that the placement is appropriate to the individual's needs.
- [42 CFR 483 Subpart C: Federal PASRR regulation](#)



PASRR

- PASRR process consists of:
 - **Level I screening**
 - Form LTC-02 found on SDS website
 - Must be submitted prior to admission, regardless of payment source
 - Must be submitted when a resident experiences a change of condition that identifies a new diagnosis of or indicators of mental health or Intellectual or developmental disability
 - **Level II evaluation**
 - Conducted by Div. of Behavioral health contractors for Mental health conditions or SDS staff for intellectual developmental disabilities or related conditions



Working well

- PASRR compliance slowly being achieved, form being utilized
- PASRR is person centered policy
- SDS Long Term Care and PASRR Resources webpage contains helpful PASRR materials
- PASRR Technical assistance available:
 - One on one between hospitals, facilities, and SDS staff
 - Quarterly meetings with provider partners and SDS
 - PASRR Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) support



Challenges

- Misunderstanding of exempted hospital discharge and categorical determinations
- Wait time for PASRR Level II is often problematic
- Need for re-education & refresher trainings about PASRR
- In the past, individuals were often admitted to without PASRR screening



Upcoming

- ASHNHA/SDS workgroup – starts in January
- PASRR Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) will give PASRR workshop in Spring 2017
- SDS Harmony system will allow hospital and LTCF staff to enter request information directly to SDS, eliminating forms and DSM



QUESTIONS?

Thank You



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