



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Medical Services

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Cynthia E. Beane
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: WV Nursing Home Services Medicaid Providers

FROM: Cynthia Beane, MSW, LCSW
Commissioner

DATE: April 2, 2020

SUBJECT: PASRR Level I and Level II COVID-19 Precautions

Due to the World Health Organization declaring Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a pandemic, the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) was approved a waiver request, pursuant to Section 1135 of the Social Security Act from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to modify certain Medicaid program requirements, policies, operational procedures, and deadlines applicable to the State's administration of its Medicaid program and West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (WVCHIP) during the period of the national state of emergency to prevent further transmission of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

This waiver includes possible suspension of certain Level I and Level II PASRR requirements. Currently Level I and Level II PASRR staff are working diligently to ensure evaluations are completed quickly. The Level I process can be completed entirely electronically, and Level II Evaluators have been given permission to complete assessments via telehealth and other electronic methods.

Due to these steps, and for the safety of our members, BMS is not implementing the 1135 waiver to suspend PASRR requirements at this time. BMS will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with our state and federal partners gathering further information and directives and will assess whether the waiver will be necessary in the future.

However, BMS does recognize there may be situations when interfacility transfers may need to occur rapidly. If an interfacility transfer is required as a result of COVID-19, the transfer may take place without completion of the Level I and Level II PASRR process. In these situations, the receiving facility should verify that a Level I was previously completed at the transferring facility. If a Level II was required, the transferring facility should send the Level II documentation to the receiving facility.