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Health and Human
Services

Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR
and DSHS**

September 9, 2020

For more information:

Web: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-provider-information>

Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-438-3161

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Robert Ochoa
Senior Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

- Introduction and overview
- Reminders and updates



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Reminder

Sign-up for Gov Delivery

To sign-up for Alerts:

- Go to:
<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>
- Enter your email address.
- Confirm your email address, select your delivery preference, and submit a password if you want one.
- Select your topics.
- When done click "Submit."



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CMS/CDC NF COVID-19 Training

CMS is offering free online training for nursing facilities related to COVID-19

[Click here](#) to view currently available pre-recorded trainings.

Facilities also have access to the [CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff and Management](#)

Bi-weekly Live Q&As will be held Thursdays at 4pm E.T. (3pm Central) starting August 27th.

[Register Here](#) for future Q&A webinars.



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COVID-19 Webinar for Harris County

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Harris Co. and Surrounding Areas (NF)

Sep 10

1:00 p.m.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

The purpose of this webinar is to:

- inform and prepare nursing facilities in a specific area of Texas where COVID-19 is surging.
- review area specific data, community/area resources
- highlight specifics of the Nursing Facility COVID-19 Response Plan



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CMS Test Reporting Requirements

Facilities conducting COVID-19 testing in their facility will need to report test results to their local health department which covers both federal and state reporting requirements. Steps:

Once you have CLIA or CLIA waiver;

1. Register here:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/lab-reporting.aspx>

2. Locate your local health department or DSHS Region through <https://dshs.texas.gov/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/>

3. The LHD or DSHS region will provide the input forms and process for you.

4. The DSHS Regions or LHDs submit as soon as they're able to enter data into our state's National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). NEDSS uploads to CDC

Note: NFs are still required to submit their weekly data to the CDC's National Healthcare Network system



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CMS Test Reporting (CLIA Waivers)

For facilities receiving Point-of-Care Antigen Test Kits from US HHS:

- Facilities will need to be CLIA certified or receive a waiver
- Facilities can apply for a CLIA waiver with [Form CMS-116](#) to your [regional licensing group](#)
- Please note that NFs should fill out section 1 by selecting “Other Changes (Specify)” and fill in “COVID 19 NH” to alert the State Agency that your application is a part of the HHS effort.”



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Facilities Performing COVID-19 Testing

Per CMS [QSO 20-38-NH](#), in order for a facility to conduct COVID-19 testing a physician Standing Delegation Order must be in place.

Additionally, A CNA may conduct specimen collection for testing if they have documented training on how to collect specimens – this is to ensure their safety and that of the resident, but also to have a quality sample that is testable.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Whitney Ward, Emergency Coordinator

Audrey Rangel, Emergency Medical Referent

Dr. Buffy Lloyd-Krejci, IPC Specialist

Doctors Without Borders

- Announcements
- How to get an assessment



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**PUT YOUR
IDEALS INTO PRACTICE**

LONG TERM CARE SUPPORT

HOUSTON, TEXAS



Whitney Ward, Project Coordinator
Msfocb-usa-emco@brussels.msf.org

Our history in Nursing Home IPC

Brussels, Belgium

March 2020

Detroit, Michigan

May 2020

Houston, Texas

August 2020

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik, DNP, RN
Associate Commissioner
Long-term Care Regulation



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and
Local Health Operations
DSHS



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Susan Purcell, BS, RN, CPHQ

Project Director/Regional Task Lead –
Nursing Home Quality Improvement

TMF Health Quality Institute, the CMS-designated Quality Improvement Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands

Email nhnetwork@tmf.org to submit requests for assistance with NHSN reporting problems.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Valerie Kreuger
Program Specialist – IID/PASRR
Long-Term Care Regulation

- Announcements



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Information Letter No. 20-39 Revised

In accordance with Human Resources Code, Section 32.0425, HHSC will reimburse a Nursing Facility (NF) for the provision of a customized manual wheel chair (CMWC) through the PASRR Program only when a durable medical equipment (DME) supplier ensures a qualified rehabilitation professional (QRP) is present and involved:

- In the clinical assessment for the CMWC
- At the time the CMWC is delivered

This is to ensure the chair meets the needs of the resident and proper fitting.



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Information Letter No. 20-39 Revised

Beginning on September 1, 2020, in order for a Nursing Facility (NF) to be reimbursed for a CMWC through the PASRR program, HHSC will require that a NF:

- Submit HHSC QRP Certification Form 2362 on the Long Term Care Portal (LTCOP), and
- Submits the PASRR NF Specialized Service (NFSS) – CMWC/DME Receipt Certification form after the CMWC is delivered

Note: the links to these forms are on the first page of IL No. 20-39



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Information Letter No. 20-39 Revised

When the NF submits a prior authorization request on the NFSS – CMWC/DME Receipt Certification form in the LTCOP, the NF must request payment for the QRP assessment.

- The QRP assessment will be reimbursed at the same price as one Therapy Assessment which is \$95.08
- The LTCOP will automatically deduct 18% from the total amount of the authorization request for the CMWC
- The NF must enter the amount of \$115.95 in order to be reimbursed the full amount of \$95.08



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Information Letter No. 20-39 Revised

After the CMWC has been delivered, the NF will need to submit the following on the LTCOP:

- QRP Certification Form 2362 (signed by the QRP)
- CMWC receipt certification (signed by the NF therapist)

Submitting these two forms will allow HHSC to make the funds available to the NF by creating the service authorization.

After HHSC reimburses the NF, the NF will pay the provider for the chair and QRP assessment.

Note: a link with detailed instructions on how to attach completed forms to the NFSS form is on page 3 of IL No. 20-39



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Link to the Information Letter

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/IL2020-39.pdf>

HHSC PASRR Contact Information

PASRR.Support@hhsc.state.tx.us



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State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Statewide phone: 800-252-2412

Statewide email:

ltc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us

State Ombudsman: Patty Ducayet,
(or) patty.ducayet@hhsc.state.tx.us



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Alexa Schoeman

Deputy State Ombudsman

Alexa.Schoeman@hhsc.state.tx.us

Weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC

Residents: Every Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45

<https://www.facebook.com/texasltcombudsman?fref-ts>

Voting

Residents have the right to vote by all available methods.

- Early voting (in person or by mail)
- Curbside voting
- In person polling place

Helpful links from www.votetexas.gov:

- [When to Vote](#)
- [Early Voting](#)
- [Helpful Hints on Voting Early by Mail](#)
- [Special Procedures for Early Voting](#)



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Voting

Important Dates

- **Oct. 5** – Last Day to Register to Vote
- **Oct. 13** – First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance
- **Oct. 23** - Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (**Received, not** Postmarked)
- **Oct. 30** – Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance
- **Nov. 3** – Election Day



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Voting Reminders

Things to consider if transporting residents to vote:

- Follow infection control protocols
- Maintain physical distancing
- Clean vehicle between use



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Mini Training

Panelists

Cindy Crimm
Karen Keller
Jennifer Wills

Joint Training Specialists
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services
Division



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Heidi Lizyness
Policy Specialist
Long-term Care Regulation

-
- Questions from last week



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

If a staff member is out of town for an entire week, how does this effect CMS testing requirements if county rates require weekly/twice weekly testing?

Answer:

If an employee is out of the facility for an extended period of time (a week or longer) then the employee's absence would need to be documented along with the weekly test documents. They would not need to be tested for the week(s) that they are not in the facility, but would need to be tested immediately upon returning to work.



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Questions?

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