The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

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TO: Acute Care Hospitals

FROM: Elizabeth Kelley, MPH, MBA, Director Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

DATE: December 22, 2022

RE: Skilled Nursing Facility Short-Term Rehab Capacity Program

This memo serves as an update to the memo issued on December 5, 2022. As part of the Commonwealth’s continued effort to address the current hospital capacity constraints and to assist with patient care transitions the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), MassHealth and Department of Public Health (DPH) have implemented a temporary program that adds short-term rehabilitation capacity in all regions of Massachusetts. The goal is to support patient care transitions and reduce the number of patients who are medically ready for hospital discharge but are not able to be transferred due to capacity constraints at skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and to help transition them back to the community.

The following Nursing Facilities in each Emergency Medical Service (EMS) region are required to accept all hospital referrals for patients that require short-term rehabilitation skilled nursing services as a requirement of participation in the programs. The facility must be responsive to requests from any hospital for discharge planning and available to accept all new admissions, inclusive of COVID-19 positive patients, from at least 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days a week. Hospitals should use their usual process to refer patients to the SNFs. In addition, the Nursing Facility must work to ensure individuals admitted under this Program are discharged home into the community, in accordance with the resident’s goals once they are safely able to do so. This includes beginning discharge planning and coordinating with formal and informal community supports as soon as practicable upon admission.

EOHHS is expanding this capacity by adding additional facilities to the short-term rehab capacity initiative over the course of the next month. Hospitals will be notified via a DPH list serv and Health and Medical Coordinating Committee communication should this list of facilities change or if there are any other important updates to share regarding this program.

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| Region | Facility |
| 1 | Chestnut Hill of East Longmeadow (East Longmeadow) |
| Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility Greenfield) |
| 2 | Holy Trinity (Worcester) |
| Blaire House (Milford) |
| Oakdale Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing (Boylston) |
| Alliance at Baldwinville (Baldwinville) |
| 3 | Bear Mountain at Andover (Andover) |
| D’Youville Center for Advanced Therapy (Lowell) |
| Port Healthcare Center (Newburyport) |
| 4 | Hancock Park (Quincy) |
| Alliance of Marina Bay (Quincy) |
| John Scott House Rehabilitation and Nursing (Braintree) |
| 5 | Alliance at West Acres (Brockton) |
| Baypointe Rehab Center (Brockton) |
| Hathaway Manor (New Bedford) |
| Sippican Healthcare Center (Marion) |

Thank you for your continued to support your patients, staff and communities during this public health emergency.