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: June 20, 2023

RE: Skilled Nursing Facility Short-Term Rehab Capacity Program

This memo serves as an update to the memo issued on December 22, 2022. Since January of 2022, as part of the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, a temporary program that added short-term rehabilitation capacity in all regions of Massachusetts has been in place. Beginning July 1, 2023, a subset of the current skilled nursing facility (SNF) participants will no longer be participating in the program. The remaining ten facilities (see list below) will continue to participate through September 30, 2023.

The majority of SNFs that will no longer participate in the state sponsored program as of July 1, have demonstrated through hiring efforts that they are able to maintain the expanded capacity after they transition out of the program. Accordingly, these facilities will continue to support patient care transitions in their region at the current level.

The following Nursing Facilities in each Emergency Medical Service (EMS) region will continue to be required to accept all hospital referrals for patients that require short-term rehabilitation skilled nursing services as a requirement of participation in the programs through September 30, 2023. The below facilities 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 SNF 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.

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) |
| 2 | Oakdale Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing (Boylston) |
| Alliance at Baldwinville (Baldwinville) |
| Holden Rehabilitation &Nursing Center (Holden) |
| 3 | Bear Mountain of Andover (Andover) |
| Hannah Duston Health Center (Haverhill) |
| Port Healthcare Center (Newburyport) |
| 4 | Alliance of Marina Bay (Quincy) |
| John Scott House Rehabilitation and Nursing (Braintree) |
| 5 | Alliance at West Acres (Brockton) |

Thank you for your continued support to your patients, staff and communities.