

12/22/2008

To: Nursing Facility Administrators

From: Rick Norine, Bureau Chief, Nursing Facility Services Bureau
James Driggers, Bureau Chief, Community Services Bureau

Re: Level of Care Screens (LOC) for Nursing Facility Residents

The Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation (MPQH) has recently seen an increase in inappropriate and incomplete requests for Level of Care (LOC) screens. Some nursing facilities routinely request a screen for all of their residents to protect the date of Medicaid eligibility when there is no reason to do so. The problem is compounded by incomplete applications. These practices cause an increase in costs to MPQH, and if they continue, will result in increased Department costs for this service.

We ask that facilities not refer all residents automatically for LOC screenings. Attached are a flow chart and a fact sheet that we hope will give better direction to facilities in terms of when a level of care screen is and is not required.

LOC requests to the MPQH (Fax (800) 413-3890) should minimally include:

- Contact person name, address and phone number; and
- Medicaid eligibility status, i.e. pending, applying, not applying, etc.

Please note that the Level I Pre-Admission Screening requirement remains in effect. Medicaid reimbursement cannot be approved before a Level I Pre-Admission Screen has been completed. Simply put, Level I Screens are always required of every resident, while Level of Care Screens are only required for Medicaid payment.

If you have any questions about LOC(s), please contact MPQH at 443-0320 or 1-800-219-7035. Questions regarding this correspondence can be directed to either Rick Norine at 406-444-4209 or James Driggers at 406-444-4544.

Cc: Kelly Williams, Nancy Clark and Cecilia Cowie
MPQH, MHCA, MHA