
Senior Services News

A Newsletter
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TO: All Nursing Facility (NF) Providers

SUBJECT: Distribution of 2004 Appropriated Funding to Nursing Facilities with High Medicaid Occupancy

PURPOSE: To inform NFs of additional Medicaid funding and subsequently request accurate submission of Medicaid occupancy data

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to the New Jersey Appropriation Act (The Act) for State Fiscal Year 2004, the New Jersey Medicaid program will distribute a maximum of \$18 million to those NFs whose Medicaid patient day occupancy level is at or above 75%. Each such facility will receive an interim distribution through a prospective per diem rate adjustment. No NF will receive a total allocation greater than the amount lost, due to adjustments in Medicaid reimbursement methodology, which became effective April 1, 1995.

ACTION: To ensure the proper identification of eligible facilities whose Medicaid patient occupancy levels are at or above 75%, it is imperative that each NF accurately complete and return the enclosed "Facility Occupancy Statement" form, along with the appropriate documents, by close of business day August 31, 2003. The "Facility Occupancy Statement" form along with the appropriate documentation should be sent by certified mail to the Office of Nursing Facility Reimbursement at the address provided on the bottom of the form. Special Care Nursing Facilities (SCNFs) are to submit separate forms for each independent special care unit.

The "Facility Occupancy Statement" form requests three critical items of information:

1. The number of Medicaid beneficiaries for whom the NF received Medicaid reimbursement for June 30, 2003.
2. The number of Medicaid applicants and approved beneficiaries residing in the NF for whom the NF anticipates payment for June 30, 2003.

NOTE: Please submit a list of patient names with Medicaid numbers, if available. Please do not submit social security numbers!

3. The number of NF residents, for whom the NF received Medicaid reimbursement prior to June 30, 2003, for whom the NF billed Medicare for June 30, 2003, (not included in numbers 1 or 2 above).

NOTE: Please submit a list of patient names with Medicaid numbers, if available. Please do not submit social security numbers!

The prospective per diem rate adjustments will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$E = A \text{ Medicaid Days} / T \text{ Medicaid Days} * F$$

Where "E" is the entitlement for a specific nursing facility resulting from this allocation; "A Medicaid Days" is an individual nursing facility's reported Medicaid days on June 30, 2003. "T Medicaid Days" is the total reported Medicaid days for all affected nursing facilities and "F" is the total amount of State and federal funds to be distributed. No NF will receive a total allocation greater than the amount lost, due to adjustments in Medicaid reimbursement methodology, which became effective April 1, 1995.

Before April 30, 2004 and to the extent possible, the accuracy of the completed surveys will be verified. Those facilities whose Medicaid occupancy rate on June 30, 2003 has been verified at 75% or greater will remain qualified for the final reconciliation process.

If a nursing facility has incorrectly identified its Medicaid occupancy on the survey form for June 30, 2003 and is found to be below 75%, the amount of the overpayment, as a result of The Act, will be recouped immediately at 100%.

The per diem add-on for the entire State fiscal year will be recalculated in May 2004, based on verified data and actual Medicaid days paid for services rendered from July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 and a projection for the remainder of the fiscal year. The new per diem rate that each facility receives will be considered final and not subject to further adjustment. No adjustment will be made if the revised maximum rate varies from the interim maximum rate by \$0.05 or less.

Any concerns that an interested party may have should be brought to the attention of the Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Nursing Facility Rate Setting and Reimbursement, PO 715, Trenton, NJ 08625-0715, prior to April 1, 2004. Any concerns raised after April 1, 2004 will not be considered in regards to The Act

ANY NURSING FACILITY THAT FAILS TO SUBMIT THE FACILITY OCCUPANCY STATEMENT BY AUGUST 31, 2003, SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT

**RETAIN THIS NEWSLETTER BEHIND THE NEWSLETTER TAB
(BLUE TAB MARKED "5")**