



COMMISSIONER  
Chris Traylor

January 7, 2011

To: Nursing Administrators and Minimum Data Set Coordinators

Subject: Information Letter No. 11-06 - Preadmission Screening and Resident Review and the Comprehensive Minimum Data Set Completed on Admission

The Department of Aging and Disability Services has identified a need to provide clarification to facilities regarding the submission of the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASARR) and the Minimum Data Set (MDS) forms. PASARR is a federally-mandated program requiring any person, regardless of payment source, seeking admission into a Medicaid-certified nursing facility to be assessed for a diagnosis of mental illness, intellectual disability or a developmental disability.

**Note:** The previously used term "mental retardation" has been replaced with the term "intellectual disability." The term "related condition" has been replaced with the term "developmental disability." The limitations for what is defined as a "developmental disability" (a.k.a. "related condition") can be found here: [http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/guidelines/ICD-9-CM\\_Diagnostic\\_Codes.pdf](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/guidelines/ICD-9-CM_Diagnostic_Codes.pdf)

When completing an MDS admission form in the Texas Medicaid Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) Long-Term Care (LTC) online portal, if there are indications as to the above diagnoses, a PASARR screening form must be completed by the nursing facility. To do so, the facility must select "yes" on MDS item "S.2.". After doing this, if the individual does not currently have an approved PASARR in the portal, the billing system will suspend the MDS admission form and move the form into "Pending PASARR Verification" status. While the MDS is in "Pending PASARR Verification" status, claims for the person cannot be processed until the PASARR is verified and a valid MDS status is indicated in the LTC online portal.

Once the PASARR is submitted it will be assessed and a determination made by TMHP as to whether the individual meets medical necessity for a nursing facility level of care and if the individual might benefit from specialized services. The facility receives the medical necessity determination notice via the LTC online portal. Upon receiving the determination of medical necessity from TMHP, the facility must select the "Check for PASARR" option in the LTC online portal. Doing this will allow the portal to verify the PASARR has been processed and the facility may continue to complete the MDS.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jamie White, Program Specialist, at (512) 438-4481 or by email at [jamie.white@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:jamie.white@dads.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Geri Willems  
MERP/PASARR Manager