



COMMISSIONER  
Jon Weizenbaum

October 31, 2012

To: Nursing Facility Administrators, Minimum Data Set (MDS) Coordinators and Directors of Nursing

Subject: Information Letter No. 12-84  
Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Process Changing

The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) wants to remind Nursing Facility Administrators, MDS coordinators and Directors of Nursing the PASRR process as it exists today will be changing next year. The anticipated date of implementation for the PASRR re-design is May 24, 2013.

In December of 2009, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Medicaid Director received notification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), identifying issues with DADS current PASRR process. As a result, several significant changes will be implemented including:

- Eliminating the role of nursing facilities in the Level II evaluation process;
- Requiring specific specialized services to be identified before admission to the nursing facility; and
- Requiring DADS to have clear processes in place for resident review when an individual experiences a significant change in their MDS assessment.
- In order to bring the PASRR process in Texas to achieve federal compliance, PASRR has been undergoing a re-design which will ensure the appropriateness of nursing facility admission, and that individuals with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities (MI/IDD/DD) are receiving the necessary services to meet their overall physical, mental and psychosocial needs. The PASRR program screenings and necessary subsequent evaluations are a federal and state requirement for every nursing facility admission, regardless of payment source. Medicaid certified nursing facilities, even in the absence of Medicaid patients, are subject to federal compliance with PASRR. Please make sure that prior to implementation, you have any previous PASRR Screenings in the medical record.

PASRR training is scheduled to begin in spring 2013 in five major cities across Texas. Once specific information regarding training is available, we will inform nursing facilities and open registration.

**The DADS PASRR Unit will be giving a luncheon presentation on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Texas Health Care Association Annual Convention in San Antonio. Please consider attending our presentation on PASRR as we will be sharing the most current re-design information.**

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If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Mendy Blevins, PASRR Policy Analyst, by phone at 512-438-5477 or by email at [mirenda.blevins@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:mirenda.blevins@dads.state.tx.us) or visit <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/pasarr/redesign/index.html> for additional information regarding the PASRR re-design process.

Sincerely,

*[Signature on file]*

Geri Willems  
Manager, PASRR/MERP

GJ:gw