




STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

25 SIGOURNEY STREET HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-5033

November 16, 2009

TO: Hospital Discharge Planners, Case Managers/Social Workers, Nursing Facility Administrators, Admissions and Social Services, District DSS District Offices

FROM: Kathy Bruni, MPA, LCSW 
Manager, Alternate Care Unit
State of Connecticut
Department of Social Services

RE: Changes to the NF admission process:
Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRR) and level of care

Beginning February 01, 2010, Ascend Management Innovations (Ascend) will assume responsibility for the following services under contract with the Connecticut Department of Social Services:

- **Reviewing Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Level I (MI/MR) Screens.** PASRR Level I Screens are federally required screens to identify applicants to and residents of Medicaid certified nursing facilities who are known or suspected of having a serious mental illness, mental retardation, or a developmental disability. Under this new process, the Level I (MI/MR) form will change slightly and will be fully web-based. This means that providers may submit screening information to Ascend directly on Ascend's website. Providers may also submit screening information to Ascend via facsimile. As of February 1, 2010, the Department of Social Services will no longer be processing MI/MR screens.
- **Reviewing level of care need for individuals age 65 and older who are Medicaid active, eligible, or pending.** As with the Level I screens, protocols used to determine Level of Care for these specific individuals will also change. Currently level of care information is submitted through the Health Screen and the W-10, depending upon whether the individual is an applicant or a resident of a nursing facility. Beginning 2/1/10, a single level of care form will be used to initiate level of care screens for persons age 65 and older who are Medicaid active, eligible, or pending. **Ascend will also maintain an automated Home Care application that can be submitted directly on their website. The department will continue to process all level of care determination requests received prior to February 1, 2010, but will no longer accept new requests after January 31, 2010.**
- **Conducting Level II evaluations for persons known or suspected of having serious mental illness who are residing in or applying to a Medicaid Certified nursing facility.**

In order to prepare relevant providers for these changes, Ascend will be offering several training opportunities in the coming weeks. **Ascend is tentatively scheduled to host live training sessions on January 11 and 12 in Cromwell.** Ascend will also tape web-ex sessions so that provider staff may view trainings at their convenience. In addition, Ascend will host open form *Question and Answer* sessions for providers throughout the month of January.

Ascend offers longstanding experience managing these services for a variety of states and we look forward to the efficiencies we will gain through Ascend's screening processes. We will issue additional communications through Ascend's website (www.pasrr.com) to alert you and your staff to upcoming trainings, as well as changes to forms, procedures, and policies. **Please circulate this memo among staff at your facility.**

Information about trainings, procedures, form revisions, and other updates about these processes will be posted on Ascend's website over the coming weeks: www.pasrr.com.

Please bookmark this website and visit it frequently for postings and updates.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Connie Tanner at ctanner@ascendami.com or leave a message on Feedback at pasrr.com.