

Date: May 21, 2020

To: Genesis Rehab Services Business Partners

From: Lou Ann Soika, Chief Strategy and Administrative Officer

Re: COVID-19 Communication – Week of 5/18/2020

Although this year's Memorial Day will be unlike any other, we hope that you can find some time to reflect on the meaning of the holiday and be assured that as in the past, we have been resilient and together we will manage and overcome this pandemic too. Thank you all for your ongoing care, compassion and collaboration. We appreciate you!

Each Veteran's Affairs (VA) National Cemetery will conduct a brief [wreath-laying ceremony](#), accompanied by a moment of silence and the playing of "Taps. The ceremonies will not be open to the public but you can [participate in these ceremonies virtually](#). Live stream links and videos of Memorial Day 2020 ceremonies at VA National Cemeteries across the country will be [posted here](#) as they occur on May 25. Additionally, family, friends and visitors can [leave tributes or comments](#) on veterans' memorial pages.

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY

Please find a link to our CEO and President George Hager's interview on CNN on the challenges nursing homes face. [Click here to view the video](#).

REGULATORY UPDATES

Re-opening Recommendations: On May 18, 2020, the CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety, and Oversight Group released a document titled "Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials." In this document, CMS provides recommendations to help determine the level of mitigation needed to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in nursing homes. The recommendations include the following items:

- Factors to inform decisions for relaxing nursing home restrictions through a phased approach
- Considerations allowing visitation and services in each phase
- Recommendations for restarting certain surveys in each phase

There are three phases outlined by CMS that include the following factors that nursing homes should consider during each of the phases:

- The volume of COVID-19 cases in the nursing home as well as the community
- Facility staffing levels
- PPE supplies
- Access to testing for COVID-19 for residents and staff
- Local hospital capacity

In addition, CMS notes that visitation restrictions would be lifted during the third phase of the process. To review the details of the letter, click [here](#). To review the associated Frequently Asked Questions document, click [here](#). In addition, please refer to the associated GRS Regulatory Update found on our customer portal.

CMS Final MDS Item Set for October 1, 2020: CMS delayed the 1.18 updates that were slated for Oct. 1, 2020, which would have contained 59.5 changes to the MDS and recently released an updated item set, version 1.17.2 instead, and related technical data specifications, which will go into effect Oct. 1, 2020. These changes will support the calculation of PDPM payment codes on **OBRA assessments when not combined with the 5-day SNF PPS assessment**, specifically the OBRA comprehensive (NC) and OBRA quarterly (NQ) assessment item sets. This update will **allow State Medicaid Agencies to collect and compare RUG-III/IV payment codes to PDPM ones and thereby inform their future payment models.**

You should confirm with your State Medicaid Agency if your state will be requiring the calculation of the PDPM payment.

- [MDS3.0 Final Item Sets v1.17.2 for October 1 2020 zip \(ZIP\)](#)
- [MDS 3.0 Data Specs Errata \(v3.00.4\) FINAL 04-30-2020 \(PDF\)](#)

Reporting Requirement Summary for Nursing Homes: We have included a one-page summary document, [CMS COVID-19 NHSN Reporting Requirements for Nursing Homes](#). In addition, the CDC has updated its National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Module for tracking COVID19 data. The CDC strongly recommends facilities review the webpage materials before sending questions to the NHSN help desk. [COVID-19 Module | LTCF | NHSN](#)

GRS WELLNESS RESOURCES

GRS continues to offer our live virtual wellness classes each week to assist with improving resident mobility. **Week of May 18th and May 24th Schedule of Classes is below**

- 11am Eastern, 10am Central, 9am Mountain, 8am Pacific
- To access the Zoom link: [Click Here](#)
- Class Options:
 - Functional Strength: Tuesdays
 - Maximizing your Memory: Wednesdays
 - Meditation and Mindfulness: Thursdays
 - Seated Tai Chi (**NEW!**): Fridays