

Date: November 12, 2020

To: Genesis Rehab Services Business Partners

From: Lou Ann Soika, Chief Strategy and Administrative Officer

Re: COVID-19 Communication - Week of November 8, 2020

As you are all painfully aware, the COVID-19 pandemic represents the biggest health care challenge of our lifetime. Recognizing a need for more guidance on this pandemic, members of the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Editorial Board invited several clinicians with early experience managing the disease to collaborate on "[What Now for Rehabilitation Specialists? Coronavirus Disease 2019 Questions and Answers](#)" from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine to help guide rehabilitation clinicians in the community

We hope you find this document informative as it outlines the clear need for rehabilitation intervention in both the acute and postacute settings for the following system-based manifestations and impairments: pulmonary, cardiac, neurologic, renal, hematologic, skin, liver, functional and cognitive impairments.

Genesis Respiratory Services (RHS) is ready to serve! According to an article in Skilled Nursing News, "[A Year into PDPM and Many Months into COVID, Respiratory Therapy Waits for 'Industry Wide Embrace'](#)," the industry has still not fully embraced respiratory therapy as anticipated. Having expertise from our Respiratory team, in particular during the COVID pandemic, enables us to provide a comprehensive and holistic recovery process to these patients. Please contact us at any time to discuss adding respiratory services for your location.

Virtual Walk to End Alzheimer's is this Saturday, November 14, at 11:00am EST. Genesis continues to be a proud supporter of this walk, and over the years we have raised more than \$10M dollars. This year's walk is everywhere — on every sidewalk, track, and trail. While we won't be gathering at a large in-person event, we will be walking in our neighborhoods, while others in our community are walking in theirs. If you don't already have a team and would like to donate, we invite you to join our virtual walking team or make a donation on our corporate team's fundraising page: https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2020/PA-DelawareValley?pg=team&fr_id=13790&team_id=632077

Regulatory Updates and Resources

Legislation Introduced Providing for Potential Fix on Proposed Part B Cuts: On October 30th, U.S. Representatives Ami Bera (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon (R-IN) introduced bipartisan legislation that provides for a potential fix to the fee schedule cuts slated to take effect on January 1, 2021. The bill is entitled, the *Holding Providers Harmless from Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020 (H.R.*

8207), and other cosponsors of the bill include Reps. Brendan Boyle (D-MA); George Holding (R-NC), Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Phil Roe (R-TN), Abby Finkenauer (D-IA), and Roger Marshall (R-KS).

According to NASL, the bipartisan legislation would provide critical relief to physicians and other providers who are scheduled to receive Medicare payment cuts next year under the Evaluation/Management (E/M) proposal contained in CMS' Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule. The bill would ensure payments to providers expecting to receive a cut in 2021 under the E/M proposal are kept stable at 2020 levels for the next two years by providing for an additional add-on payment in the amount of the difference between 2020 and 2021 rates for a period of two years.

It is important to note that the CY 2021 PFS would still go into effect as-is on January 1, 2021, with the noted increases/decreases resulting from the conversion factor update included. Those providers expecting to receive a payment increase in 2021 under CMS' E/M proposal would still receive that increase. If enacted, the legislation would help those providers receiving cuts under the E/M proposal be made whole or "held harmless" at 2020 rates for a period of two years.

I Wear a Mask Because: With the record breaking number of new cases of COVID we are experiencing, our teams are trying to keep staff focused on staying vigilant by wearing their PPE not only at work but making sure they are also wearing their masks outside of work. We hope you will find this video created by the CDC helpful: [I wear a mask because](#)

Access to COVID-19 Vaccine: On November 4th, CMS updated the [Long Term Care Facilities \(Skilled Nursing Facilities and/or Nursing Facilities\): CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19](#) document with information to ensure all Americans have access to a COVID-19 vaccine when one becomes available. The updated information within this document is designated through a double asterisk (**).

CMS Resources for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP): On October 28th, CMS released two video tutorials to assist providers in SNFs with standardized data assessment guidance and assessment strategies for two cognitive assessments. The videos are designed to provide targeted guidance for accurate coding using live-action patient/resident scenarios.

- [Brief Interview for Mental Status Video](#) (BIMS) (22 minutes)
- [Confusion Assessment Method Video](#) (CAMS) (25 minutes)

CMS One-Stop Nursing Home Resource Center: On Friday, October 30th, the CMS launched a new online platform - the Nursing Home Resource Center - to serve as a centralized hub bringing together the latest information, guidance and data on nursing homes that is important to facilities, frontline providers, residents and their families. The Resource Center consolidates all nursing home information, guidance and resources into a user-friendly, one-stop-shop that is easily navigable so providers and caregivers can spend less time searching for critical answers and more time caring for residents. Moreover, the new platform contains features specific to residents and their families, ensuring they have the information needed to make empowered decisions about their healthcare. [Click here](#) to access the new site.