



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES M. PALMER, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1021

DATE: June 20, 2011

TO: Iowa Medicaid Certified Nursing Facilities and Hospital Discharge Planners:

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Level II Implementation

The Department of Human Services is pleased to announce the selection of Ascend Management Innovations as our contractor for PASRR Level II evaluation and determination. Ascend is a widely recognized national leader in PASRR management with extensive experience in other states. Their expertise will be invaluable as Iowa comes into full compliance with federal regulations.

This letter is to provide you with an update on the status of PASRR implementation. The department has submitted a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to allow a phased implementation period through August 2011, with a fully compliant PASRR process in place as of September 1, 2011. A Medicaid State Plan amendment has also been submitted to CMS. Updates to Iowa Administrative Rules are in development and when published, will be available on the department's website at: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/policyanalysis/RulesPages/Dockets.htm>.

We have received several questions from providers regarding the procedures to be followed as of July 1, 2011. Many implementation details have yet to be decided; however, a list of questions that have been received will be answered in cooperation with Ascend, and made available to providers in the next few weeks. **Please continue to operate under your current procedures until further notice.** The department and Ascend will continue to provide status updates and further instructions over the upcoming months. Planning for implementation does include training and technical assistance for nursing facility and hospital discharge planning staff.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or locally at 515-256-4609, or by e-mail at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.