



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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Governor

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Director

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 1057

**DATE:** September 28, 2011

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Nursing Facilities, and Nursing Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness

**FROM:** DHS, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

**RE:** Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRR) Issues

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

Changes to the PASRR process were implemented on September 1, 2011, in order for the state to come into compliance with federal regulations. These regulations require that every person entering a Medicaid-certified nursing facility undergo a PASRR Level I screening for mental illness or intellectual disability prior to admission. Those individuals who are identified by a Level I screening as potentially having a mental illness or intellectual disability must then undergo a Level II evaluation which determines whether the person's needs can be met in the nursing facility setting.

Concerns have been raised both by hospitals and nursing facilities in regard to several issues related to PASRR processes. In response, the Department has decided to **suspend all negative outcomes for providers until January 1, 2012**, when the automated PASRR Level I system is expected to become operational.

During this time, Level I screenings and Level II evaluations will continue to be done by the hospitals and nursing facilities using the processes that were effective September 1; however, IME will not withhold reimbursement for any post-admission PASRR activity. The Department's expectation is that the PASRR process should not delay persons from receiving services at the appropriate level of care. **Receiving facilities should not delay admissions due to incomplete PASRR activity.**

During this interim period, the Department will convene a workgroup comprised of hospital and nursing facility provider representatives who will meet regularly to discuss and resolve issues with the goal of making the PASRR process efficient for providers and members.