



Iowa Department of Human Services

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1375

DATE: April 10, 2014

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals Providing Swing Bed Care, Nursing Facilities, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)

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

RE: Skilled Nursing Services Available Under the Iowa Wellness Plan

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2014

The Iowa Wellness Plan offers up to 120 days annually of facility based skilled nursing services per year for members that meet the level of care determination. Skilled nursing services include; necessary therapy, medications, wound care, stoma care, ventilator, tracheostomy care or tube feedings.

Skilled services are payable when provided in nursing facilities, skilled nursing facilities and hospital swing beds. The Iowa Wellness Plan member's facility admission for skilled care should follow the same protocols as other Iowa Medicaid members as outlined below:

- The State's Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) process must be followed. Please refer to [Informational Letter No. 1109](#)¹ regarding PASRR processes.
- Level of Care is determined by completing the [Level of Care Certification for Facility](#)² form and faxing it to the IME Medical Services Unit at (515) 725-1349.
- The admitting facility is also required to submit a [Case Activity Report \(CAR\)](#)³, and fax the form to the Centralized Eligibility Unit at (515) 564-4040, as applicable. To ensure timely processing, please indicate on the CAR that the CAR is for an Iowa Wellness Plan member.
- Hospital swing bed services are covered only after the prior authorization criteria outlined in [Informational Letter No. 1245](#)⁴ are met.

It is important to note that Iowa Medicaid payment for nursing facilities is based on a modified price-based case-mix rate. The rate is based on the provider's allowable costs for direct-care and non-direct care, plus a potential excess payment.

¹ <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/docs/1109PreadmissionScreeningandResidentReviews-PASRR.pdf>

² <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/470-4393.pdf>

³ <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/Case%20Activity%20Report.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/1245%20Prior%20Authorization%20Required%20for%20Swing%20Bed%20Admission%20and%20Continued%20Stay.pdf>

Reminder: The Iowa Wellness Plan benefit limit for skilled services is 120 days annually. Providers should continue to monitor eligibility and any client participation amount in the Iowa Medicaid Portal Access (IMPA) system. Please refer to [Informational Letter No. 1317](#)⁵ for more information regarding facility notices on IMPA.

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

⁵<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/1317%20New%20Facility%20Client%20Participation%20Notice%20Process%20Update.pdf>