



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

May 20, 2009

To: Community Service Waiver Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 09-62

Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MN and LOC) Changes

This is to notify Community Service Waiver Providers of the following changes that affect the Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MN and LOC) assessment.

Portal Calculation of a BC1 RUG

Currently, when the Long Term Care (LTC) Online Portal calculates a Resource Utilization Group (RUG) of BC1 on an MN and LOC assessment, the forms are processed. BC1, as providers know, is an invalid RUG and the form must either be corrected, if within 14 days of initial submittal, or invalidated, and a new form resubmitted.

Effective June 1, 2009, the LTC Online Portal will no longer accept any MN and LOC Assessment with a RUG of BC1 into the workflow. A Document Locator Number (DLN) will not be assigned because the BC1 will not be accepted into the LTC Online Portal. A DLN will only be assigned when a RUG other than a BC1 is approved. Providers will see the following message when a RUG of BC1 has resulted: *"This assessment has produced a RUG of BC1, which is not valid for this program, and has not been accepted on the Portal. Please review the RUG fields for accuracy; then correct and resubmit. Click on the Help link in the Navigation Bar to view the Item by Item Guide as needed."*

While a DLN is not assigned to the assessment that results in a RUG of BC1, the MN and LOC assessment may be saved as a draft using current draft functionality after the BC1 message is displayed. Additionally, as in current functionality, the fields on the assessment will be left unlocked for immediate editing after the BC1 error is displayed.

Frequency of Seizure in last 30 days

Currently the LTC Online Portal allows in the MN and LOC field I1aa2, Frequency of Seizure, a two-digit numeric field with a valid value range of 1 to 99. However, according to the MN and LOC Item by Item guide, the frequency of seizure range has a valid range of 0 to 99.

Effective June 1, 2009, this field has been changed to allow a two-digit number field of 0 to 99. Except for the change to this field, no other changes were made to the form. The LTC Online Portal will now allow values of 0 to 99 inclusive.

Home and Community Support Services Agency (HCSSA) nurses who have questions about completing the MN and LOC assessment should contact the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) regional nurse. The list of nurses and phone numbers by regions is posted on

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the DADS website at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/cba/contacts.html>. For provider policy questions related to this letter, providers should call the Community Services phone line at 512/438-3015.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Gordon Taylor
DADS Chief Financial Officer

GT: mgm