



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

April 27, 2011

To: Nursing Facility (NF) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 11-29 – Documentation Requirements for the Medically Dependent Children Program

The purpose of this letter is to clarify requirements related to admission and discharge of individuals from a nursing facility to the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP). MDCP provides services to support families caring for children and young adults who are medically fragile.

The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) recently issued a policy clarification to Community Services regional staff clarifying written documentation of admission and discharge from a nursing facility is required for an individual to access MDCP services through the Money Follows the Person option. An individual may be eligible to access MDCP services if the individual completes either:

- a nursing facility stay of not less than 30 consecutive days; or
- a limited nursing facility stay if the individual is determined to be too medically fragile to complete a 30-day stay.

DADS will make a determination of an individual's medical fragility based on information provided by an individual's physician, including the individual's diagnosis, present medical condition, and prognosis. A physician designated by DADS will review the information to determine concurrence with the physician's recommendation that the individual meets the medically fragile criteria to access the program through the limited stay provisions.

If the DADS designated physician concurs and approves the individual for a limited nursing facility stay, the individual, or the individual's legally authorized representative, may then seek admission to a nursing facility for the purpose of initiating a limited nursing facility stay. Prior to authorizing MDCP services, written documentation from the nursing facility verifying the time and date of admission and discharge from the nursing facility is required.

MDCP services must be authorized by DADS within 24 hours of the nursing facility discharge date. To meet the 24-hour authorization requirement, discharge from the nursing facility may occur on any day except Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or a designated state holiday if it falls during the week, and the day preceding the state holiday.

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For the purpose of assisting individuals in meeting this requirement, nursing facilities must provide copies of Form 3618, the Resident Transaction Notice, to the individual, or the individual's legally authorized representative, to document the date and time of admission and the date and time of discharge.

If you have questions regarding this letter, you may email NF.Policy@dads.state.tx.us

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Teresa Richard
Director
Center for Policy and Innovation

TR:cp