Important Updates for the Local Authority (LA)/Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA)

Information posted April 28, 2014

Several important updates are scheduled to implement this summer to the Long Term Care (LTC) Online Portal and Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR). They include:

- Notification of the PASRR Evaluation (PE) Refusal Policy
- Responsibilities of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)
- Initiation of the Finalized Specialized Services
- Updates to the Medically Dependent Children’s Program (MDCP) Preadmission Process
- Updates to the PE Item–by-Item Guide for Field A2300G
- Nursing Facility Alerts
- Fair Hearings
- Termination/Discharge of Services

Notification of the PASRR Evaluation (PE) Refusal Policy

DADS PASRR Unit recognizes that there may be residents who refuse to participate in the PE with the LA/LMHA. This may be due to fear, mistrust, or a lack of familiarity or understanding of the program.

PASRR is a federally-mandated program which must be completed for every individual seeking placement in a Medicaid-certified nursing facility (NF) regardless of funding source. Every individual seeking admission to a Medicaid-certified NF must have a PASRR Level I Screening Form (PL1) submitted to the Texas Medicaid Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) Long Term Care (LTC) Online Portal.

If the individual has a positive PL1, the PE will be completed within 7-14 days of NF admission. Residents and their legally authorized representatives (LAR) cannot refuse the PE. If an individual does not wish to participate in the PE completion, the LA/LMHA should follow these steps:

- Determine if there is a LAR or guardian for the resident.
- If there is a LAR or guardian, they must participate in the evaluation on behalf of the individual.
- If there is not a LAR or guardian, the LA/LMHA should employ the assistance of a member of the NF staff with whom the resident is familiar and trusts. The NF staff can help explain the process and reassure the resident that the evaluation will be a positive and beneficial experience for the resident.
- If the NF staff are unable to assist in gaining cooperation to complete the PE, the LA/LMHA should complete the PE only from the medical records available and add a
note (using the Add Note button on the yellow Form Actions bar of the PE) that the individual refused to cooperate or participate in the evaluation.

Responsibilities of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)

It is the responsibility of the NF to invite the LA/LMHA to the IDT/Care Plan Meeting. These meetings are held at the NF for the resident within the first 14 days of admission. If the LA/LMHA has not received an invitation to the IDT/Care Plan Meeting within seven to ten days from the date the PE was submitted on the LTC Online Portal, the LA/LMHA should contact the NF to determine the date and time of the meeting.

It is the responsibility of the LA/LMHA to participate in the meeting to finalize the recommended specialized services indicated on the submitted PE. The LA/LMHA does not have to be physically present at the meeting; participation by telephone is permissible.

Initiation of the Finalized Specialized Services

The IDT/Care Plan Meeting is necessary to finalize and document the specialized services the resident will receive from both the NF and the LA/LMHA. All finalized specialized services are documented in the individual’s Comprehensive Care Plan and must be initiated within 30 days from the date the services are entered on the Comprehensive Care Plan.

The NF is responsible for initiating and/or providing physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and customized adaptive aids.

The LA/LMHA is responsible for initiating and/or providing service coordination, alternate placement, and vocational rehabilitation (where available).

Updates to the Medically Dependent Children’s Program (MDCP) Preadmission Process

The MDCP requires a brief NF admission and stay to meet program eligibility requirements. MDCP individuals will generally be Preadmission, unless they are hospitalized immediately prior to NF admission; in that case, the individual would follow the Expedited Admission or Exempted Hospital Discharge process.

In MDCP Preadmission, the family or attending physician is the referring entity and; therefore, responsible for completing the PL1 Screening Form and faxing it to the LA/LMHA. The NF is only allowed to facilitate the completion of the PL1 with direct input from the family. The LA/LMHA is responsible for submitting the PL1 on the LTC Online Portal.

Once the MDCP individual is discharged from the NF, usually less than 24 hours after the admission, the LA/LMHA must answer fields B0650 and B0655 to stop the alerts for the PE completion. Only the PL1 submitter can answer fields B0650 and B0655 on the PL1.

Updates to the PE Item—by-Item Guide for Field A2300G

The PE Item-by-Item Guide has been updated to include revised directions for Field A2300G (Phone Number [for the LA/LMHA] in the Setting of Assessment Section). LA/LMHA must enter the ten-digit telephone number for the LA/LMHA completing the evaluation, not the telephone number of where the assessment is being conducted. This field is used to auto-populate the LA/LMHA contact telephone number listed in the PASRR letters generated by the LTC Online Portal for the resident/LAR.
**Nursing Facility Alerts**

A new systematic alert is being generated to notify the Nursing Facility when the NF has not indicated whether it is able to serve the individual on the PL1, so action can be taken.

NFs will now be able to log onto the LTC Online Portal, go to the Alerts page and see all PL1s awaiting certification for their facility. Alerts and the ability to serve the individual are described in the LTC Nursing Facility/Hospice User Guide available on TMHP website.

**Fair Hearing**

If the PE is determined to be negative and the resident or the LAR disagrees, the LA will be required to attend the Fair Hearing. Information about Fair Hearings can be found in the LTC Local Authority PASRR Workshop User Guide, which is available on this website.

**Termination/Discharge of Services**

If has been determined a resident is ineligible for PASRR services after a positive PE, the following steps must be taken by the LA to amend the eligibility status:

1. The LA or NF must submit a new PL1 indicating “No” in all three (3) questions of Section C.
2. Submit the PL1 to the LTC Online Portal.
3. Verify Negative PASRR status.
4. If the individual was receiving service coordination, the LA must also provide notice of termination of service coordination with the opportunity for a Fair Hearing.

Contact TMHP at 1-800-626-4117, Option 1, for questions about the upcoming changes to the LTC Online Portal.