Clarification: The following alert applies only to Nursing Facilities.

Based on CMS guidance under the 1135 waiver, facilities should determine by the 15th day of evacuation (or as soon as practicable) whether or not residents will be able to return to the evacuated facility within 30 days from the date of the evacuation. Nonetheless, evacuating facilities must ensure displaced residents are returned or admitted to a new facility 30 days post-evacuation.

Facilities that have made the determination that they will not repatriate by the 30th day after evacuation must notify their HHSC Regulatory Regional Office.

According to CMS guidance, facilities that cannot repatriate residents within 30 days must discharge residents and ensure they are safely admitted to another facility. All state and federal discharge requirements remain in effect. Meaning, discharge notifications must still be provided to residents and their representatives prior to a discharge taking place. Additionally, discharging facilities must complete required discharge paperwork, including discharge assessments and discharge summaries. If some documentation is not immediately available due to the effects of the storm, discharging facilities must make any required documents available to the receiving facility as soon as practicable.

Throughout the discharge process and upon admission to the receiving facility, residents should be offered choices about where they receive their long-term care services. As part of the comprehensive assessment completed by the receiving facility, discharge planning must be conducted. Receiving facilities should discuss long-term care goals and preferences with evacuated residents that are being admitted. If the resident or the resident’s representative indicates a desire to move to another facility or alternative care setting, the admitting facility must assist the resident to make preparations to move to a setting which meets the resident’s choice and needs.