



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1674-MC

DATE: May 25, 2016

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Nursing Facilities (NF), Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), Intermediate Care Facilities/Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

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

RE: Level of Care (LOC) Process-Clarification

EFFECTIVE: April 1, 2016

The IA Health Link managed care program began on April 1, 2016, with a focus on the provision of services and quality of care in Long Term Care programs. This letter is intended to clarify the submission of LOC Certification for members in a nursing facility.

As required by federal regulation, facilities must conduct a comprehensive, accurate, standardized, reproducible assessment of each resident's functional ability to determine the appropriate LOC. The results of the assessment are used to develop, review, and revise the resident's comprehensive plan of care, potentially resulting in discharge.

All initial admission LOC determinations are made by the IME Medical Services Unit for all Medicaid members, regardless if enrolled in managed care or Fee-For-Service (FFS). Admission LOC also includes those discharged from Medicaid greater than ninety days for reasons other than hospitalization, or those reviews for persons who are admitted to a NF as private pay, then later make application for Medicaid. Facilities should continue to submit the [Level of Care Certification for Facility](#)¹ form, to the IME Medical Services Unit by fax at (515) 725-1349.

Continued Stay Reviews (CSRs) for medical approval are the responsibility of the member's MCO, unless the member is FFS. FFS CSRs are completed by the IME Medical Services Unit. The purpose of a CSR is to determine if the resident continues to need the facility care. Level of care reassessments are to be completed at least annually and when the member's functional or medical status has changed in a way that may affect level of care eligibility.

Any changes to the LOC determined at the time of the CSR for MCO enrolled members will be forwarded by the MCO to the IME Medical Services Unit for review.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

¹ <http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-4393.pdf>