

State of Vermont
Department of Vermont Health Access
Division of Rate Setting
280 State Drive, NOB 1 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-1010
<http://dvha.vermont.gov>

Agency of Human Services

[Phone] 802-241-0980

April 3, 2020

TO: Vermont Medicaid Nursing Homes

Re: Notice of temporary Medicaid Long-Term Care Facilities rate restructure in response to the COVID-19 National Health Emergency

Dear Vermont Medicaid Nursing Home Provider:

In order to provide financial stability to nursing facilities during the COVID-19 national health emergency (COVID-19 Response), the Division of Rate Setting (Division) is expanding the situations under which a nursing home may apply for extraordinary financial relief (EFR).

During the COVID-19 Response, nursing homes incurring costs or enduring other hardships related to COVID-19 are eligible to apply for EFR. Nursing homes do not need to be facing “immediate danger of failure” before being eligible for EFR per Section 10 of the *Methods, Standards and Principles for Establishing Medicaid Payment Rates for Long-Term Care Facilities, Vermont Division of Rate Setting Rules* (V.D.R.S.R.). This temporary change shall be effective immediately and continue until the earlier of 60 days after the National Health Emergency related to COVID-19 is terminated or when a determination by the Agency for Human Services is made to revert back to the standard EFR conditions. All other provisions of V.D.R.S.R. § 10 shall apply to the Division’s review of EFR requests.

To file a request for EFR, nursing homes should submit a written request per V.D.R.S.R. § 10.4. To expedite review, it is recommended that all applications and documents be emailed to: DRS@vermont.gov. Applications for EFR due to COVID-19 related costs should be accompanied by documentation, to the extent available, of the costs as they relate to COVID-19. COVID-19 related costs reimbursed through EFR shall not also be reimbursed in the per diem rate and should be self-disallowed on the nursing facility’s cost report.



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Thank you for your work to care for Vermonters during this unprecedented public health crisis. Please do not hesitate to contact the Division with any questions at DRS@vermont.gov or (802) 241-0980.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Gillette
Director of Rate Setting

