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.
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