



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

MARY C. MAYHEW
SECRETARY

July 14, 2020

Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Policy Transmittal: 2020-41

Applicable to the **2018-2023 SMMC contract benefits** for:

- Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) and MMA Specialty
- Long-Term Care (LTC)
- Dental

Re: COVID-19 State of Emergency: Updated Hospital Transfer Requirements

On March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 20-51 related to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The purpose of this policy transmittal is to provide updated direction to policy transmittal 2020-39 regarding the requirements for hospital transfers.

During the COVID-19 state of emergency, the managed care plan must waive service authorization requirements prior to admission for hospital transfers, including:

- inter-facility transfers:
- transfers to a long-term care hospital; and
- transfers to a nursing facility.

This applies when the receiving facility is a participating provider or non-participating provider. The managed care plan may require the receiving facility to notify the plan of the admission within forty-eight (48) hours of the admission. At that point, the plan may request additional clinical information to begin **concurrent/continued stay reviews** to facilitate care coordination and discharge planning. In no way, may the managed care plan enact barriers to prevent or delay enrollees from being transferred or discharged from hospitals in a timely manner.

In addition, to facilitate non-emergency transportation services that may be needed to aid in these transfers, the managed care plan must waive prior authorization requirements for non-emergency ambulance transportation services **for hospital transfer scenarios as described above.**

These provisions apply to enrollees being transferred from a hospital regardless of diagnosis (i.e., COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients). The Agency will continue this flexibility until further notice.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your contract manager at (850) 412-4004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shevaun Harris".

Shevaun Harris
Assistant Deputy Secretary for
Medicaid Policy and Quality

SH/sar

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