TO: All Nursing Facilities Participating in MassHealth

DATE: December, 2011

SUBJECT: Nursing Facility Pay for Performance Program Announcement

The MassHealth Office of Long Term Services and Supports (OLTSS) announces the reestablishment of the MassHealth Nursing Facility Pay for Performance (Nursing Facility P4P) Program for FY12. The program for FY12 builds on its previous program while satisfying new requirements for the program. The FY12 budget provided $2.8 million for the Nursing Facility P4P Program and includes language requiring a cooperative effort standard for nursing facilities. Funding is currently limited to FY12.

This announcement provides an introduction to the Nursing Facility P4P Program for FY12. Facilities should look for more detailed information about the Program in a MassHealth Nursing Facility Provider Bulletin in the winter of 2012. All qualified facilities are encouraged to apply for this program opportunity.

Background

The Nursing Facility P4P Advisory Committee, created with the initial program, will continue to work with the MassHealth Office of Long Term Services and Supports and the MassHealth Quality Office (MQO) to ensure stakeholder input into the planning and development processes. The NF P4P Program advisory committee is comprised of individuals who possess specific knowledge of the needs of nursing facility residents, and the care delivery issues that nursing facilities encounter in meeting those needs. Members of the advisory committee include representatives from nursing facilities, Leading Age Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Senior Care Association, the MassHealth Offices of Long Term Services and Supports and Clinical Affairs, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP).

FY12 Nursing Facility P4P Program Design

The design of the FY12 Nursing Facility P4P Program consists of the following components: 1) meeting specific thresholds for participation, 2) submitting an application as outlined below, and 3) meeting the requirements of participation as further described below and in a Provider Bulletin to be issued in the winter of 2012.

Cooperative Effort

Part of the threshold for participation will be the demonstration by facilities of a Cooperative Effort policy, a policy in which the facility establishes a Quality Committee with representation from non-licensed staff to work on the pay for performance program. Facilities must demonstrate the existence of a Cooperative Effort policy through the formation of a Quality Committee with specific functions related to the P4P Program. These include:

- Meeting consistently throughout the year
- Having appropriate members attend the meetings and
- Working on the P4P program’s consistent assignment component
An audit will be performed by MassHealth OLTSS staff to ensure that the facilities accurately meet the cooperative effort standard.

Consistent Staff Assignment

The P4P Program for FY12 focuses on Consistent Staff Assignment, defined by Advancing Excellence as being regularly cared for by the same caregiver. Participation is voluntary. The program requires undertaking a performance-based quality improvement pilot project. Major components include:

- Submitting an application in late March, 2012, developed by the facility's Quality Committee, for a quality improvement process that provides detailed information on project goals, procedures for data collection and analysis, areas for improvement, etc.
- Submitting an attestation that verifies the facility has met all of the designated thresholds.

MassHealth expects to award funding to eligible nursing facilities to improve quality of care in facilities based on meeting the program thresholds and submitting an application on consistent staff assignment and acceptance of the application by OLTSS. Funding for awards to Nursing Facilities is based on the total budget for the FY 12 NF P4P Program, and the number of facilities applying and meeting application and participation requirements. Facilities will be asked to submit applications in late March, 2012. The OLTSS and MQO will determine the number of awards and the award amounts for qualifying facilities. Funds will be distributed to facilities applying and meeting application requirements by June 30, 2012.

Future Components

The current program is limited to FY12, with the hope that funding will be provided to continue this quality improvement program for FY13.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this announcement, please e-mail your inquiry to NFP4PProgram@state.ma.us.