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,

Shevaun Harris
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Policy and Quality

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