

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2318-MC-FFS

DATE: March 1, 2022

TO: Skilled Nursing Facilities, Nursing Facilities, Hospitals Providing Swing Bed Care, Hospice Providers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid

RE: Skilled Nursing Facility and Nursing Facility Services for Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) and Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Members

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2022

*****This informational letter (IL) replaces IL 1375.*****

Nursing facility services are a Medicaid state plan benefit and available as a covered service for all qualifying members who have full Medicaid benefits. This includes IHAWP members who have a medically exempt (ME) status and members on MAGI Medicaid coverage groups. To qualify for nursing facility (NF) services, the member must reside in a skilled nursing facility (SNF), NF, hospital providing swing bed care, or must be receiving hospice benefits while residing in a SNF or NF. They must also meet the required level of care (LOC) and are subject to transfer of assets (TOA) policies.

To determine if the LOC is met, providers must submit LOC documentation to Iowa Medicaid. They may fax the Level of Care for Facility form to the Iowa Medicaid Medical Services Unit at 515-725-1349.

The States Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) process must be followed. If a provider has questions on PASRR submissions or entries into PathTracker, please contact Maximus at iowaPASRR@maximus.com or 1-833-907-2777.

To determine if a TOA has occurred, the income maintenance worker will send a request for information to the member. Please note: If the information is not returned, NF services will not be covered (except for the allowed 120 skilled LOC days for members on IHAWP). This process is effective with case activity reports (CARs) submitted to the Department on or after March 1, 2022.

The following information will be requested to determine if a TOA has occurred:

- Do you or anyone in your household have a life estate?
- Do you or anyone in your household have a trust?
- Have you or anyone in your household not accepted an inheritance in the past five years?
 - If yes, who?
- Have you or anyone in your household transferred, sold, or given away resources for less than their fair value in the past five years?
 - If yes, who/what?
 - Date this occurred
- If you answered 'yes' to any of the questions above, you may provide verification with this letter to expedite the processing timeline. If you do not provide verification, it may be requested later.

IHAWP Members and ME Status

IHAWP members may enter a facility without ME status and still be eligible for 120 days of skilled LOC. If a member's health condition should need facility care beyond the 120 days, an application for the ME determination must be submitted to Iowa Medicaid Member Services. The effective date of an approved ME status is the month following the month of the determination. A Notice of Decision will be issued regarding the approval or denial of the ME request. Information regarding the ME process can be found [here](#)¹.

To be eligible for the state plan nursing facility service coverage beyond the 120 days of skilled LOC or at a nursing level of care, members must meet the LOC requirements, have been determined ME, and have been determined not to have a TOA.

IHAWP Members NOT Determined ME

IHAWP members who do not have ME status are eligible only for nursing facility benefits if they meet skilled LOC. Facility benefits are limited to 120 days per rolling year. The year for a member begins the day they entered a facility on skilled LOC.

The Department will add the ME approval date to the Iowa Medicaid Portal Application (IMPA) at a later date. Until system updates are completed, providers should call Iowa Medicaid Member Services to confirm ME status for IHAWP members. Providers may call 1-800-338-8366.

If an IHAWP or MAGI member's Medicaid eligibility is canceled, NF services will not be covered until the eligibility has been reestablished.

¹ [Nursing Facility Services for Iowa Health and Wellness Plan \(IHAWP\) and MAGI Members | Iowa Department of Human Services](#)

If you have questions, please contact the Iowa Medicaid Provider Services Unit or the appropriate Managed Care Organization (MCO):

IME Provider Services for FFS members:

- Provider Services: 1-800-338-7909
- Provider email: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.:

- Provider Services: 1-800-454-3730
- Provider email: iowamedicaid@amerigroup.com
- Website: <https://providers.amerigroup.com/ia>

Iowa Total Care:

- Provider Services: 1-833-404-1061
- Provider email: care_management@iowatotalcare.com
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>