



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

25 SIGOURNEY STREET HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-5033

To: CT Hospital Discharge Planning Departments

From: Kathy Bruni, Manager Alternate Care Unit
Department of Social Services

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Cc: Mark Schaefer, Acting Director of Medical Care Administration
Michael Starkowski, Commissioner

Date: January 29, 2010

RE: ASCEND PASRR and Level of Care Contract Implementation

As you are aware, the Department of Social Services has entered into a contract with Ascend, a nationally recognized leader in the federally mandated Preadmission Screening Resident Review Program (PASRR). The implementation is scheduled for February 1st.

The implementation plan has been modified to address concerns raised by hospitals. The purpose of this memo is to outline immediate changes to the process.

Changes for Hospitals:

- Effective 2/1/10 all hospitals are required to complete Level I screens and Level of Care Screens in Ascend's web based system.
- Ascend will accept paper screens only if there is technical difficulty with the web submission process.
- For those hospitals that accept Ascend's credentialing standards, Ascend's clinical reviewers will begin conducting Level II screens on site in the hospitals beginning 2/1/10.
- Those hospitals that have additional credentialing requirements will be permitted to complete Level II evaluations with Ascend as they have done in the past with ABH. Paper screens should be submitted to Ascend by fax effective 2/1/10.
- This accommodation in the process will be permitted until February 15th in order to allow time for the Ascend reviewers to complete hospital specific credentialing procedures.
- After February 15th, paper Level II reviews completed by hospital staff will no longer be accepted. An in person Level II review by an Ascend Level II reviewer must occur before the person can be discharged to a nursing home.
- A training session exclusively for hospital personnel will be conducted by Ascend on Thursday February 18th. Please go to Ascend's web site, passrr.com to register.
- Finally, Ascend has modified its system to allow multiple clinical persons to enter data into a Level I or Level of Care Screen and also to allow multiple administrative staff to enter demographic information.

For any questions regarding the new processes and procedures, please contact Ascend's Help Desk either by phone at 877-431-1388 or via email at cthelpdesk@ascendami.com.

You may also contact me at 860-424-5177 or by email at Kathy.a.bruni@ct.gov.