



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nursing Facility Administrators

FROM: Jane Sacco, Chief **JS**
Division of Long Term Care Services

DATE: January 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Physician Certification Requirements for Nursing Facility Services

In August 2016, the Maryland Medicaid Program issued Nursing Home Transmittal No. 259. This Transmittal required nursing facilities, when submitting a 257 to begin payment for nursing facility benefits, to submit a copy of a signed physician's order specifying the need for nursing facility services along with the 257. The purpose of the physician's order was to satisfy federal Utilization Control requirements for a written certification by the physician that the person requires the services of a nursing facility. A copy of the Transmittal is attached.

It has been brought to our attention that nursing facilities have been submitting the 4th page of the DHMH 3871B, signed by the physician, in lieu of a physician's order. The 3871B, however, does not satisfy the federal requirement because the form does not contain a statement that nursing facility services are required.

To be sure that the requirement for physician certification is properly met, we have directed Telligen to accept only a signed physician's order as documentation for any 257s received on or after Monday, January 21. The order should specify that nursing facility services are required (most pre-printed orders have this language). The signature should be clear and readable; if necessary, the name may be printed next to the signature or a signature sheet may be submitted.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this requirement or need additional time to make the necessary adjustments to your business processes, please contact Edward Mitchell, LTC Supervisor at Telligen, at 443-561-3340 or emitchell@telligen.com.

Attachment

cc: Nursing Home Liaison Committee
Telligen, Inc.