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MCG message

Title: Hospital transfers related to COVID-19

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The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a notice in response to the State of Michigan's strategy to respond to the needs of hospitals severely impacted by the coronavirus public health emergency and the establishment of the COVID-19 Statewide Load Balancing Plan. Effective 4/7/2020, MDHHS is relaxing the Medicaid hospital-to-hospital transfer policy and the policy for associated transportation needs for transferred beneficiaries.

In an effort to free hospital resources for incoming COVID-19 cases, MDHHS will now allow the transfer of beneficiaries to lower acuity facilities. Hospitals who would like to initiate a transfer to another facility must continue to obtain a *Prior Authorization Certification Evaluation Review* through the state's designated *Admissions and Certification Review Contractor* and maintain documentation of medical justification for the transfer. Current reimbursement policy for transfers remain in effect and can be referenced in the *Hospital Reimbursement Appendix* in the *Hospital* chapter of the [MHDDS Medicaid Provider Manual](#). The ARCR will prioritize review of related transfer request during this time.

Interfacility hospital transfers to lower acuity facilities via ambulance transports will be allowed. The hospital and ambulance provider must maintain documentation that clearly describes the reason(s) for the transfer. A claim may be made to MDHHS for a scheduled or unscheduled, medically necessary non-emergency ambulance transport without an attending physician written order (e.g., physician certification statement) certifying the medical necessity of the transport.

For full details of the MDHHS bulletin, visit Michigan.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact your Blue Cross Complete provider account executive.