



Updated Guidance from CMS: 360care Clinical Teams Should be Permitted into Facilities

On March 12, 2020 we sent you a communication that made references to CMS's March 9, 2020 *Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in nursing homes (REVISED)*. To clear up some confusion regarding language in the March 9 guidance, CMS issued a revision to that guidance dated March 13, 2020.

In the March 13, 2020 guidance, CMS states that with regard to health care workers who provide care to residents that **"They should be permitted to come into the facility as long as they meet the CDC guidelines for health care workers."** The 360care clinical teams fall into this category.

As a reminder, a communication from AHCA/NCAL dated March 9, 2020, states facilities should permit entry to those who are needed to assure the residents' needs are met and that "AHCA/NCAL's recommendation is NOT for a complete ban on all visitors."

The 360care clinical teams provide care that is not only required but that is meaningful to your residents and can prevent more serious medical issues from developing. Providing the care consistently and timely prevents medical emergencies from occurring that oftentimes result in residents having to be sent out for emergency care, or more seriously, be admitted to the hospital. As a reminder, we are typically working from orders from the residents' primary care physicians stating the treatment is medically necessary and the treatment is pursuant to treatment plans that follow from the initial examination of the resident. We believe there is far less risk to the resident by being treated on-site in the facility than being transported out into the general community.

As a part of the residents' care team, along with your staff and the primary care physicians, we take our obligations to help the residents maintain their quality of life and prevent further illnesses seriously, and have made a commitment to comply with all appropriate guidance and standards as related to COVID-19.

Here are the steps 360care is taking to comply with or exceed the standards laid out in CMS guidance while providing your residents needed care:

- All of our clinical staff is being kept abreast of developments and recommendations regarding treating nursing home residents.
- Our clinical staff already has had infection control training and should always be following appropriate infection control guidelines. Communications to reinforce this training have been made.
- Any clinical staff coming to your facility will have completed a self-evaluation form (see attached) prior to traveling to your facility.
- The clinical staff has been instructed to cooperate with any screening process put in place by your facility.
- Prior to a clinical visit, we are checking with the facility to confirm the COVID-19 status at that facility. Residents experiencing any symptoms but for whom COVID-19 has not been confirmed should be rescheduled for another time. If the facility has been exposed to confirmed cases of COVID-19, the entire visit will need to be rescheduled for another time.

We look forward to continuing to provide your residents with the highest level of care.



CORONAVIRUS RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring the Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak that originated in China and subsequently spread internationally. Due to the outbreak, the CDC recommends increased awareness and preparedness in healthcare settings. Our healthcare professionals will continue to monitor the CDC's update communications as they occur and follow recommendations for infection prevention practices related to COVID-19.

SELF - ASSESSMENT FOR THE CLINICAL CARE TEAM:

To help ensure the safety for the residents and healthcare workers please self-evaluate your risk of infection by reviewing daily, prior to traveling to the facility, the following questions:

1. Have you traveled or had direct contact with any person who has traveled internationally to a country on the CDC's Level 3 advisory list in the last 14 days? **YES** or **NO**

Please refer to the CDC website for Level 3 travel advisories.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

2. Have you traveled or have you had direct contact with any person who has traveled internationally to any other country within the past 14 days? **YES** or **NO**

If yes, where have they traveled? _____

If you answered YES to #1, you will not be allowed into a facility. If you answered YES to #2, let the Branch Manager know so they can check against any restrictions the facility may have.

3. Have you had any contact with any person with known Coronavirus COVID-19 or who may be under evaluation for exposure to Coronavirus COVID-19? **YES** or **NO**

4. Do you have any of the following symptoms? **YES** or **NO**
Fever (over 100.4), Cough, Shortness of Breath or other Flu-like symptoms

If you answer YES, to either questions #3 or #4, you may not be allowed to enter the facility. Please contact your Branch Manager or Clinical Director to discuss your current risk.

FACILITY - ASSESSMENT:

To help ensure the safety of the 360care Team please request the following information from qualified clinical personnel at the facility upon your arrival:

1. Is there evidence of Coronavirus COVID-19 or possible exposure? **YES** or **NO**

If yes, immediately contact your Branch Office and let the facility know you will be in contact to reschedule the visit.

2. Are there any Residents on the schedule that have a fever, cough, shortness of breath or other flu-like symptoms? **YES** or **NO**

If yes, please ask to have the Resident rescheduled and continue with the visit.

If you have questions whether a visit should continue, please contact your Branch Manager or Clinical Director.