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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

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D-2026-Intermediate Care Facilities-001

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: BED HOLDS DURING TEMPORARY ABSENCES DUE TO
HOSPITALIZATION AND/OR SKILLED NURSING CARE

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) [section 4639.6](#) authorizes the Director of the Department of Developmental Services to issue directives to regional centers as the Director deems necessary to protect individual rights, health, safety, or welfare. Regional centers must comply with such directives.

When a resident of a vendored intermediate care facility (ICF), ICF-developmentally disabled (DD), ICF-DD nursing, ICF-DD continuous nursing, or ICF-DD habilitative (collectively hereafter an "ICF-DD home") temporarily requires a stay in any general acute care hospital setting, acute psychiatric hospital, and/or a skilled nursing facility, as defined in subdivisions (a) through (c) of Health and Safety Code [section 1250](#), the regional center shall fund bed hold payments for up to thirty days, following the exhaustion of any bed hold days funded by Medi-Cal¹. The regional center shall pay the bed hold per diem rate the facility receives from Medi-Cal during this period.

The intent of these bed hold payments is to reduce the likelihood of residents losing their home because of a temporary need for hospitalization and/or skilled nursing care. A loss of placement may lead to health, safety, or welfare concerns as an appropriate alternative living arrangement may not be immediately available upon discharge.

Payments for bed hold payments are subject to the following:

- The regional center-funded bed hold is limited to a maximum of thirty days per hospitalization/skilled nursing stay, and shall immediately follow the bed hold days, if any, funded by Medi-Cal.
- The attending physician must order the hospitalization/skilled nursing care and define the duration of the medically necessary hospitalization/skilled nursing stay.
- The ICF-DD home must hold the bed vacant during the temporary hospitalization/skilled nursing stay.
- The day the resident returns to the ICF-DD home is not counted as a bed hold day.

Exceptions for longer stays

If an individual's hospitalization/skilled nursing stay extends beyond the initial 30-day regional center-funded time frame, the regional center shall grant up to an additional

¹ Medi-Cal/Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans are required to authorize up to seven days per hospitalization

seven days, up to a maximum of 37 total bed hold days per hospitalization/skilled nursing stay beyond any Medi-Cal-funded bed hold days. To utilize this exception, the attending physician must attest in writing to the following items prior to the expiration of the post-Medi-Cal 30-day authorization:

- Medical necessity for continued hospitalization/skilled nursing care.
- The individual's needs upon discharge likely can be met by the ICF home where the individual resided prior to the hospitalization/skilled nursing stay.

Regional centers should share this directive with ICF-DD home providers. Questions about this directive should be directed to healthfacilities@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

PETE CERVINKA
Director

cc: Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies