DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

Electronically delivered
March 3, 2021

Administrator
Mn Veterans Home Fergus Falls
1821 North Park
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

RE: CCN: 245636
Cycle Start Date: November 18, 2020

Dear Administrator:

On January 19, 2021, we notified you a remedy was imposed. On January 19, 2021 the Minnesota Department of Health completed a revisit to verify that your facility had achieved and maintained compliance. We have determined that your facility has achieved substantial compliance as of January 15, 2021.

As authorized by CMS the remedy of:

- Discretionary denial of payment for new Medicare and Medicaid admissions effective February 3, 2021 did not go into effect. (42 CFR 488.417 (b))

In our letter of December 7, 2020, in accordance with Federal law, as specified in the Act at § 1819(f)(2)(B)(iii)(I)(b) and § 1919(f)(2)(B)(iii)(I)(b), we notified you that your facility was prohibited from conducting a Nursing Aide Training and/or Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) for two years from February 3, 2021 due to denial of payment for new admissions. Since your facility attained substantial compliance on January 15, 2021, the original triggering remedy, denial of payment for new admissions, did not go into effect. Therefore, the NATCEP prohibition is rescinded. However, this does not apply to or affect any previously imposed NATCEP loss.

The CMS Region V Office may notify you of their determination regarding any imposed remedies.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Joanne Simon, Enforcement Specialist
Minnesota Department of Health
Licensing and Certification Program
Program Assurance Unit
Health Regulation Division
Telephone: 651-201-4161 Fax: 651-215-9697
Email: joanne.simon@state.mn.us

cc: Licensing and Certification File

Electronically delivered
December 7, 2020

Administrator
Mn Veterans Home Fergus Falls
1821 North Park
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

RE: CCN: 245636
Cycle Start Date: November 18, 2020

Dear Administrator:

On November 18, 2020, a survey was completed at your facility by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Public Safety, to determine if your facility was in compliance with Federal participation requirements for skilled nursing facilities and/or nursing facilities participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.

This survey found the most serious deficiencies in your facility to be a pattern of deficiencies that constituted no actual harm with potential for more than minimal harm that was not immediate jeopardy (Level E), as evidenced by the electronically attached CMS-2567 whereby corrections are required.

ELECTRONIC PLAN OF CORRECTION (ePoC)

Within ten (10) calendar days after your receipt of this notice, you must submit an acceptable ePOC for the deficiencies cited. An acceptable ePOC will serve as your allegation of compliance. Upon receipt of an acceptable ePOC, we will authorize a revisit to your facility to determine if substantial compliance has been achieved.

To be acceptable, a provider's ePOC must include the following:

- How corrective action will be accomplished for those residents found to have been affected by the deficient practice.
- How the facility will identify other residents having the potential to be affected by the same deficient practice.
- What measures will be put into place, or systemic changes made, to ensure that the deficient practice will not recur.
- How the facility will monitor its corrective actions to ensure that the deficient practice is being corrected and will not recur.
- The date that each deficiency will be corrected.
- An electronic acknowledgement signature and date by an official facility representative.

The state agency may, in lieu of an onsite revisit, determine correction and compliance by accepting the facility's ePoC if the ePoC is reasonable, addresses the problem and provides evidence that the corrective action has occurred.

If an acceptable ePoC is not received within 10 calendar days from the receipt of this letter, we will recommend to the CMS Region V Office that one or more of the following remedies be imposed:

- Denial of payment for new Medicare and Medicaid admissions (42 CFR 488.417);
- Civil money penalty (42 CFR 488.430 through 488.444).
- Termination of your facility's Medicare and/or Medicaid agreement (488.456(b)).

DEPARTMENT CONTACT

Questions regarding this letter and all documents submitted as a response to the resident care deficiencies (those preceded by an "F" tag), i.e., the plan of correction should be directed to:

Jen Bahr, RN, Unit Supervisor
Bemidji District Office
Licensing and Certification Program
Health Regulation Division
Minnesota Department of Health
705 5th Street NW, Suite A
Bemidji, MN 56601-2933
Email: Jennifer.bahr@state.mn.us
Office: (218) 308-2104 Mobile: (218) 368-3683

PRESUMPTION OF COMPLIANCE - CREDIBLE ALLEGATION OF COMPLIANCE

The facility's ePoC will serve as your allegation of compliance upon the Department's acceptance. In order for your allegation of compliance to be acceptable to the Department, the ePoC must meet the criteria listed in the plan of correction section above. You will be notified by the Minnesota Department of Health, Licensing and Certification Program staff and/or the Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal Division staff, if your ePoC for the respective deficiencies (if any) is acceptable.

VERIFICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE

Upon receipt of an acceptable ePoC, a Post Certification Revisit (PCR), of your facility will be conducted to validate that substantial compliance with the regulations has been attained in accordance with your verification.

If substantial compliance has been achieved, certification of your facility in the Medicare and/or Medicaid program(s) will be continued and remedies will not be imposed. Compliance is certified as of the latest correction date on the approved ePoC, unless it is determined that either correction actually

occurred between the latest correction date on the ePoC and the date of the first revisit, or correction occurred sooner than the latest correction date on the ePoC.

FAILURE TO ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE BY THE THIRD OR SIXTH MONTH AFTER THE LAST DAY OF THE SURVEY

If substantial compliance with the regulations is not verified by February 18, 2021 (three months after the identification of noncompliance), the CMS Region V Office must deny payment for new admissions as mandated by the Social Security Act (the Act) at Sections 1819(h)(2)(D) and 1919(h)(2)(C) and Federal regulations at 42 CFR Section 488.417(b).

In addition, if substantial compliance with the regulations is not verified by May 18, 2021 (six months after the identification of noncompliance) your provider agreement will be terminated. This action is mandated by the Social Security Act at Sections 1819(h)(2)(C) and 1919(h)(3)(D) and Federal regulations at 42 CFR Sections 488.412 and 488.456.

Please note that this notice does not constitute formal notice of imposition of alternative remedies or termination of your provider agreement. Should the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determine that termination or any other remedy is warranted, it will provide you with a separate formal notification of that determination.

INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (IDR) / INDEPENDENT INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION (IIDR)

In accordance with 42 CFR 488.331, you have one opportunity to question cited deficiencies through an informal dispute resolution process. You are required to send your written request, along with the specific deficiencies being disputed, and an explanation of why you are disputing those deficiencies, to:

Nursing Home Informal Dispute Process
Minnesota Department of Health
Health Regulation Division
P.O. Box 64900
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0900

This request must be sent within the same ten days you have for submitting an ePoC for the cited deficiencies. All requests for an IDR or IIDR of federal deficiencies must be submitted via the web at: https://mdhprovidercontent.web.health.state.mn.us/ltc_idr.cfm

You must notify MDH at this website of your request for an IDR or IIDR within the 10 calendar day period allotted for submitting an acceptable electronic plan of correction. A copy of the Department's informal dispute resolution policies are posted on the MDH Information Bulletin website at: https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/regulation/infobulletins/ib04_8.html

Please note that the failure to complete the informal dispute resolution process will not delay the dates specified for compliance or the imposition of remedies.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Joanne Simon, Enforcement Specialist
Minnesota Department of Health
Licensing and Certification Program
Program Assurance Unit
Health Regulation Division
Telephone: 651-201-4161 Fax: 651-215-9697
Email: joanne.simon@state.mn.us

cc: Licensing and Certification File

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