Interim Guidance for Discharge to PACE Program

May 16, 2020

This guidance is offered as an interim measure until the CDC provides direct guidance for patients who are being discharged from the hospital or skilled nursing facility (SNF) to a PACE program.

This clinical guidance was developed based upon the best available evidence and recommendations from specialty and governmental agencies at the time of issuance. It should be used in conjunction with sound clinical judgement. Given the evolving nature of COVID-19 knowledge, guidance may change over time. This document will be updated as appropriate.

When a PACE participant is discharged from the hospital to a skilled nursing facility (SNF), the guidance for Nursing Home isolation for PUI will prevail.

Assessment of Patients Prior to Discharge

When a PACE participant is discharged from the hospital or skilled nursing facility (SNF) to home, information should be obtained to ascertain the following:

- Was the participant admitted for a non-COVID related illness/injury?
- Was the participant on a non-COVID unit within the hospital/SNF?
- Did the participant have COVID-19 symptoms while in the hospital/SNF?
- Did the participant have a known exposure to COVID patients while in the hospital/SNF?
- Was the participant tested for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) while in the hospital/SNF?

Example Decision Making for Different Discharge Scenarios

Scenario 1:
The participant was in hospital/SNF for a non-COVID reason, did not have COVID symptoms while in the hospital/SNF, was on a non-COVID unit, did not have known exposure to COVID patients, stayed briefly in the hospital/SNF (defined as <3 days), and did not have a COVID test or did not test positive for COVID while in the hospital/SNF.

**Action:** Participant can be treated as a non-Person Under Investigation (PUI) participant. The participant should be screened prior to engaging in congregate activity similarly to other non-PUI participants.

Scenario 2:
The participant was in hospital/SNF for a non-COVID reason, did not have COVID symptoms while in the hospital/SNF, was on a non-COVID unit, did not have known exposure to COVID patients, had an extended stay in the hospital/SNF (defined as > 3 days), and did not have a COVID test or did not test positive for COVID while in the hospital/SNF.
**Action:** Participant should be treated as a PUI participant. Continue Transmission Based Precautions in the home until the participant demonstrates at least seven (7) days without fever (and without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND remains asymptomatic for those seven (7) days. The participant should be screened prior to engaging in congregate activity similarly to other non-PUI participants.

**Scenario 3:**
The participant was in the hospital/SNF for non-COVID reason but had known exposure to a COVID patient or a COVID unit, regardless of length of stay and testing status.

**Action:** Participant should be treated as a PUI participant. Follow Transmission Based Precautions in the home until the participant demonstrates at least fourteen (14) days without fever (and without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND remains asymptomatic for those 14 days. The participant should be screened prior to engaging in congregate activity similarly to other non-PUI participants.

**Scenario 4:**
The participant was in the hospital/SNF for a non-COVID reason, had no known exposure to a COVID patient, was on a non-COVID unit, tested negative, but is now showing COVID symptoms.

**Action:** Participant should be treated as a PUI participant. Follow Transmission Based Precautions in the home until the participant demonstrates at least fourteen (14) days without fever (and without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND symptoms resolve. The participant should be screened prior to engaging in congregate activity similarly to other non-PUI participants.

**Scenario 5:**
The participant was admitted to the hospital/SNF and tested positive for COVID-19, but is stable to return home.

**Action:** Follow Transmission Based Precautions when interacting with the participant for fourteen days from date of positive diagnosis. The participant should remain isolated in a separate room in the home and not return to Adult Day Center or other programs until fourteen days have elapsed AND symptoms are abated; OR two nasopharyngeal swabs taken 24 hours apart have returned with negative results.

**Scenario 6:**
The participant tested positive for COVID-19, the patient demonstrates fourteen (14) days without fever but still has persistent symptoms from COVID-19 (e.g. cough).

**Action:** Follow Transmission precautions. Participant should be restricted to a room or section of the home and wear a facemask during care activities until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer. Participant cannot return to the Adult Day Center or other programs until fourteen days have elapsed.
AND symptoms are abated; OR two nasopharyngeal swabs taken 24 hours apart have returned with negative results.

Ultimately, clinical judgement and suspicion of SARS-CoV-2 infection determines whether to continue or discontinue empiric Transmission-Based Precautions. Based upon their history of COVID-19, residents may attend PACE-supported programs when all symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) have been resolved as specified in the guidelines above.