



Health Advisory

Re-admitting patients being discharged from a hospital back to health care or residential facilities

January 13, 2021

Situational Awareness

- Patients being discharged from hospitals who have recovered from COVID-19 should be offered re-admission and resumption of health care services at facilities in which they previously received services.
- This health advisory is based on California Department of Public Health guidance:
 - AFL 20-33.2 (supersedes AF 20-33.1): **Interim Guidance for Transfer of Residents with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**, available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-33.aspx>
 - AFL 20-87: **Movement of Patients/Residents in the Healthcare Continuum During Seasonal Surges and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic**, available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-87.aspx>

Expectations and Recommendations

- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) should prepare to receive patients who are clinically stable for discharge from hospitals or alternate care sites in the following scenarios:
 - Patients with no clinical concern for COVID-19 may be transferred from hospitals or alternate care sites to SNFs following usual procedures.
 - SNFs may not require a negative test result for COVID-19 as criteria for admission or readmission of residents hospitalized or receiving treatment at an alternate care site with no clinical concern for COVID-19.
 - Hospitals and alternate care sites are NOT required to perform COVID-19 testing on patients solely for discharge considerations unless the patient develops new respiratory infection symptoms.
- SNFs are encouraged to develop plans for placement and observation of new admissions and readmissions without COVID-19 testing, such as single rooms or a separate observation unit, wing or building.
- Health care service providers (dialysis, physical therapy, etc.) should prepare to resume health care delivery to patients who have recovered from COVID-19 as determined by their healthcare provider.



- No patient should be denied health care services or residential care due to prior COVID-19 infection.
- Testing (or verification of a negative test) for COVID-19 infection is not required for readmission to or resumption of health-care services.
- Re-admitting residents to the same SNF after a hospital stay or ED visit
 - When there is no suspected SARS-CoV-2 transmission at an outside facility, re-admitted residents do not necessarily require SARS-CoV-2 testing and quarantine upon readmission to the same SNF.
 - Rather than quarantine, SNFs can consider periodic SARS-CoV-2 testing of individuals who frequently leave the facility (for example, for dialysis).
 - In addition, SNF residents hospitalized and requiring transmission-based precautions for COVID-19 or influenza should be discharged from the acute care setting when clinically appropriate, not based on the period of potential virus shedding or recommended duration of transmission-based precautions.
 - SNFs must prepare for and have the necessary staffing and PPE supplies available to implement transmission-based precautions as needed for residents re-admitted after hospitalization.

Additional Resources

- San Francisco Department of Public Health
 - Health advisories and alerts are posted at www.sfgcdcp.org/health-alerts-emergencies/health-alerts/.
 - See www.sfgcdcp.org/covid19hcp for additional COVID-19 information and guidance for San Francisco health care providers.
- California Department of Public Health
 - AFL 20-33.2: Interim Guidance for Transfer of Residents with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-33.aspx>
 - AFL 20-87: Movement of Patients/Residents in the Healthcare Continuum During Seasonal Surges and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic, available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-87.aspx>
 - AFL 20-25.2: Preparing for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in California Skilled Nursing Facilities, available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-25.aspx>