

October 18, 2010

**To: Nursing Facility Providers in the State of Kansas**

**From: Kansas Department on Aging  
CARE Level II (PASRR) Program**

Question A1500 on the MDS 3.0 addresses significant change in physical or mental condition for PASRR (Level II) residents in your nursing home. CMS guidance from the RAI instructs that *“each state might have specific processes and guidelines for referral, and which types of significant changes should be referred.”*

The following guide sheet is designed to acquaint you with the guidelines of the State of Kansas for when it is important to contact the Level II staff at Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) and discuss a significant change for a Level II resident.

This guide sheet assists you to understand:

- A. What the Definition of **Significant Change** will be for PASRR purposes for Kansas.
- B. When a **Resident Review** will not be necessary;
- C. When a **Resident Review** would be necessary;
- D. A specific section of guidance is developed for residents with diagnoses of **Mental Illness** and a specific section to address guidance for those residents with **Mental Retardation** or **Developmental Disabilities**.

We hope this will help clarify the requirements of MDS 3.0 A1500. If you have further questions you may contact KDOA at 1-800-432-3535 or 1-785-296-4986 and request to visit with the CARE Level II Staff.

## Resident Review

A Resident Review (RR) is an abbreviated Level II assessment that looks at an individual's current mental and physical health issues, significant changes, and then makes a placement recommendation.

### **A Resident Review could be requested under several circumstances:**

- 1. The individual had a Level II, with a time-limited approval.** If the person is still in the Nursing Facility (NF) at the end of the approval time, a RR will be requested to make a Level II Determination as to whether or not the individual can remain in the NF, or if he/she should return to the community.
- 2. The individual went into the NF with a Level I that did not indicate MI/MR/DD.** If MI/MR/DD is discovered after admission, along with a treatment history for mental illness, or functional limitations due to the MR/DD, a RR would be requested so that a Level II determination could be made.
- 3. The individual went into the NF with a Level I indicating MI or MR/DD but without a treatment history, supportive services, or functional limitations due to the condition.**
  - If at a later point while in the NF the person with MI receives treatment or has an increase in supportive services due to the MI, a RR would be requested.
  - If the person with MR/DD later had an increase in the functional limitations due to the MR/DD, a RR would be requested.

### **DO NOT make a RR referral if:**

- A Categorical Determination has already been made that the individual does not need further evaluation due to dementia, terminal illness, certain medical conditions, etc.
- The individual in the nursing facility already has a Level II without a time limitation.

### **4. Definition of Significant Change:**

- A change in cognitive abilities and/or social adaptive functioning as determined by a psychological assessment that documents either a significant gain or loss in cognitive abilities and/or social adaptive functioning.
  - A change in physical health which results in a major decline or improvement in the functional status of the resident which is unexplained by the use of medication, an acute illness, infection, or injury.
- A. **For people with mental illness** the following are specific circumstances or situations that are considered a "significant change in condition" or people with mental illness:
- A newly diagnosed or newly discovered diagnosis of Major Mental Illness for a resident without a PASRR Level II.
  - An increase in need for supportive services due to a Major Mental Illness that was not present at admission to the NF.
  - Inpatient treatment due to a Major Mental Illness that was not present at admission to the NF.

- Resident was approved for a time-limited stay and can't be discharged by the approved end date.

B. **For people with mental retardation/developmental disability (MR/DD)** the following are specific circumstances and situations that must be considered a “significant change in condition” for people with MR/DD:

- A newly diagnosed or newly discovered diagnosis of MR/DD for a resident without a PASRR Level II.
- Resident was approved for a time-limited stay and cannot be discharged by the approved end date.
- Resident was approved for NF placement for stabilization/rehabilitation of a medical condition which has resolved and nursing facility care is no longer needed.
- Resident has a change in cognitive abilities or functioning as determined by a psychological assessment that documents a significant gain or loss not due to a medical condition.

**The following changes DO NOT indicate a PASRR status change or significant change of condition:**

1. New diagnosis of Mental Illness that is not considered a SPMI.
2. “Dementia or Alzheimer’s with.....” diagnoses.
3. Signs and symptoms of a mental illness already identified in a PASRR assessment.

For further information please contact KDOA Level II staff at 1-800-432-3535 or for an electronic version of this information please access KDOA Provider website at: <http://www.aging.state.ks.us/>.