**Local Hospital Capacity**

**Overview**

**Overview and General Information**

During the COVID-19 pandemic there have been challenges for acute care providers in maintaining adequate bed capacity and intensive care bed availability to meet the needs of patients with active COVID-19. Community access and the impact of COVID-19 on the elderly impact bed capacity of the acute care provider. Health care centers face dual concerns; access to the referral hospital for care of residents who become positive for COVID-19 and placement within the facility for hospital discharges requiring rehabilitation for COVID-19 recovery.

Long-term care facilities are required to maintain current transfer agreement(s) with hospital(s) in the area to ensure referral sources are available to accept residents who require acute care stays and to admit those residents who no longer need hospitalization but need the services provided by the facility.

**Competencies which may be associated with Local Hospital Capacity include but are not limited to:**

* Facility Infection Prevention and Control policies, procedures, and reporting
* Facility COVID-19 policies and practices
* Capability of facility staff to manage post-coronavirus residents for recovery
* Access to adequate PPE supplies
* Certified Nursing Assistant care practices
* Licensed Nurse clinical practices
* Facility Assessment (Types of residents accepted)
* Transfer agreement between referral hospital(s) and the facility

**Staff Competencies associated with Local Hospital Capacity include but are not limited to:**

**Administrator:**

* Review and potential update of Transfer Agreement with local referring hospital(s)
* Review and potential revision to Contractor agreements for rehabilitation and vendors
* Review and complete potential revision of Facility Assessment

**Infection Preventionist:**

* Infection Prevention and Control Program development, oversight, and implementation
* Knowledge of COVID- 19 and recommendations of CMS, CDC, and state and local infection control professionals
* Leads team with COVID- 19 program development, policy and procedure development, all staff education, and consistent implementation of program activities
* Maintains contact with local and regional officials to identify COVID-19 activity and monitor acute care referral source bed and ICE bed availability
* Review community spread for changes in the number of community cases and in cases within facility
* Leads QAPI sub-committee for COVID- 19 mitigation and prevention activities

**Nursing:**

* Educated Infection Preventionist with capability to oversee and lead COVID-19 mitigation program and practice
* Director of Nursing and designees have knowledge of COVID- 19 program
* Participation with the Infection Preventionist to monitor COVID-19 community spread and referral hospital(s) bed availability for both COVID-19 positive and non-COVID related access
* Promptly identifies residents with an acute change in condition
	+ Assessment Process
	+ Notification
	+ Transfer Protocols
* Monitor and acquire adequate PPE and staff performance of infection control protocols
* Collaborate with Medical Director and other health care professionals to determine facility capabilities and capacity and manage potential hospital bed shortages

**References and Resources include but are not limited to:**

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19)”, June 3, 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Optimizing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supplies. July 16, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes” June 25, 2020**.** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html#core-practices>
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “State Based HAI Prevention Activities”; <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/state-based/index.html>
* Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. State Operations Manual, Appendix PP- Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (Rev, 173, 11-22-17): <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf>
* United States Department of health & Human Services. Public Health Emergency. HPP in Your State: <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/find-hc-coalition.aspx>