**Local Hospital Capacity**

**Leader’s Guide**

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Knowledge of hospital bed availability and current transfer agreements with referral hospitals for care of both COVID-19 and non-COVID resident transfers establishes a process for residents to receive the optimal level of care and treatment throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

By regulation, the facility is required to maintain transfer agreements with acute care provider(s) in their area. The facility Medical Director may also play an important role in facilitating these agreements and aiding promotion of facility capabilities and capacity.

Capability of the facility to accept post hospitalization COVID-19 recovering patients safely and those requiring more generalized rehabilitation promotes hospital bed availability for critically ill patients. The facility is to follow infection prevention control and COVID-19 guidelines, and any related state specific guidance available.

Some areas to be considered for Local Hospital Capacity may include:

* Staff Resources:
* Infection Preventionist
* Administrator
* Director of Nursing Services and designees
* Nursing Staff
* Admission Coordinator
* Education:
* Infection Control Practices and Prevention of Transmission
* Policies and Procedures for Infection Control, including COVID-19
* Staff use of PPE
* Clinical skill capability
* Monitoring and Evaluation
* Observation of staff performance: Clinical Skills, PPE Use, Infection Prevention and Control protocols
* Administrator review and revision of Transfer Agreements with referral hospital(s)
* Determination of community COVID-19 case numbers and current hospital bed availability
* COVID-19 cases/outbreaks within the facility and ability to accept admissions
* Review and update of Facility Assessment as needed

**References and Resources:**

* 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 “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 Medicare & Medicaid Services. “Nursing Home Reopening Guidelines for States and Local Officials”; May 18, 2020, Revised 09/28/2020; QSO- 20-30-NH; <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-30-nh.pdf-0>
* 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>
* Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes. November 2020, Version 13: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-toolkit-states-mitigate-covid-19-nursing-homes.pdf>
* United States Department of Health & Human Services. HealthData.gov: COVID-19 Reported Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity by State: <https://healthdata.gov/dataset/covid-19-reported-patient-impact-and-hospital-capacity-state>