

WAC 388-97-01401 Transfer and discharge appeals for resident in medicare or medicaid certified facilities—Requirements in effect November 30, 2021, through May 23, 2023, in response to the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department adopted emergency rules under RCW 34.05.350 on November 30, 2021, to amend and repeal portions of WAC 388-97-0140. The emergency rules remained in effect until May 23, 2023. The following rule was in effect during that time:

(1) A skilled nursing facility and a nursing facility that initiates transfer or discharge of any resident, regardless of payor status, must:

(a) Provide the required written notice of transfer or discharge to the resident and, if known or appropriate, to a family member or the resident's representative;

(b) Attach a department-designated hearing request form to the transfer or discharge notice;

(c) Inform the resident in writing, in a language and manner the resident can understand, that:

(i) An appeal request may be made any time up to ninety days from the date the resident receives the notice of transfer or discharge; and

Beginning November 30, 2021, through December 9, 2021, the following repeal was in effect for subsections (1)(c)(ii) through (2)(e) of this section, see WSR 21-24-069:

(ii) The nursing home will assist the resident in requesting a hearing to appeal the transfer or discharge decision.

(2) The resident is entitled to appeal the skilled nursing facility or nursing facility's transfer or discharge decision. The appeals process is set forth in chapter 182-526 WAC and this chapter. In such appeals, the following will apply:

(a) In the event of a conflict between a provision in this chapter and a provision in chapter 182-526 WAC, the provision in this chapter will prevail;

(b) The resident must be the appellant and the skilled nursing facility or the nursing facility will be the respondent;

(c) The department must be notified of the appeal and may choose whether to participate in the proceedings. If the department chooses to participate, its role is to represent the state's interest in assuring that skilled nursing facility and nursing facility transfer and discharge actions comply substantively and procedurally with the law and with federal requirements necessary for federal funds;

(d) If a medicare certified or medicaid certified facility's decision to transfer or discharge a resident is not upheld, and the resident has been relocated, the resident has the right to readmission immediately upon the first available bed in a semi-private room if the resident requires and is eligible for the services provided by a nursing facility or skilled nursing facility;

(e) Any review of the administrative law judge's initial decision shall be conducted under chapter 182-526 WAC.

Beginning December 9, 2021, through May 23, 2023, the following repeal was in effect for subsections (1)(c)(ii) through (2) of this section, see WSRs 22-01-072, 22-08-062, 22-16-063, 22-23-155, 23-07-108, and 23-11-139:

(ii) Transfer or discharge will be suspended when an appeal request is received by the office of administrative hearings on or be-

fore the date the resident actually transfers or discharges unless the failure to discharge or transfer would endanger the health or safety of the resident or other individuals in the facility (the facility must document the danger that failure to transfer or discharge would pose); and

(iii) The nursing home will assist the resident in requesting a hearing to appeal the transfer or discharge decision.

(2) A skilled nursing facility or nursing facility must suspend transfer or discharge pending the outcome of the hearing when the resident's appeal is received by the office of administrative hearings on or before the date of the transfer or discharge set forth in the written transfer or discharge notice, or before the resident is actually transferred or discharged unless the failure to discharge or transfer would endanger the health or safety of the resident or other individuals in the facility. The facility must document the danger that failure to transfer or discharge would pose.

(3) The resident is entitled to appeal the skilled nursing facility or nursing facility's transfer or discharge decision. The appeals process is set forth in chapter 182-526 WAC and this chapter. In such appeals, the following will apply:

(a) In the event of a conflict between a provision in this chapter and a provision in chapter 182-526 WAC, the provision in this chapter will prevail;

(b) The resident must be the appellant and the skilled nursing facility or the nursing facility will be the respondent;

(c) The department must be notified of the appeal and may choose whether to participate in the proceedings. If the department chooses to participate, its role is to represent the state's interest in assuring that skilled nursing facility and nursing facility transfer and discharge actions comply substantively and procedurally with the law and with federal requirements necessary for federal funds;

(d) If a medicare certified or medicaid certified facility's decision to transfer or discharge a resident is not upheld, and the resident has been relocated, the resident has the right to readmission immediately upon the first available bed in a semi-private room if the resident requires and is eligible for the services provided by a nursing facility or skilled nursing facility;

(e) Any review of the administrative law judge's initial decision shall be conducted under chapter 182-526 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.42.620. WSR 26-08-015, s 388-97-01401, filed 3/20/26, effective 4/20/26.]