



## **MAGIC Recommendations for Facilities and Provider Teams on COVID-19 Prevention: Regulatory Visits March 30, 2020**

**To:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

**From:** Minnesota Association of Geriatric Inspired Clinicians (MAGIC), the Minnesota chapter of The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (PALTC, fka AMDA) and American Geriatric Society (AGS).

**Focus:** Waiving regulatory 30/60 regulatory visits during COVID-19 National Emergency

**CMS Waiver:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken aggressive actions exercising regulatory flexibility to help healthcare providers combat and contain the spread of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID19). CMS is empowered to take proactive steps through 1135 waivers and rapidly expand the Administration’s aggressive efforts against COVID-19.

As of today, the waiver does not mention the regulatory 30/60 physician/provider visits in Skilled nursing facilities/Long term care.

**Background:** Currently, most Minnesota provider groups are focusing on essential visits and either limiting or not completing regulatory visits on healthy patients. We are trying to serve the patients who need it most and utilizing our time and facility staff time efficiently and effectively. MAGIC has released a statement of support for telehealth utilization. We recognize the SNF staff have limited time to support our efforts of telehealth. Regulatory visits can be completed via telehealth if providers and facility staff note they have the time and resources available. Providers and staff are prioritizing essential telehealth visits on acute care issues and admissions over regulatory visits for medically stable residents. MAGIC has defined “essential in-person visits” as visits that can prevent an unnecessary admission to the hospital or emergency room during this pandemic. Our goal is to:

- reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19,
- utilize SNF staff resources and time efficiently,
- utilize provider staff resources effectively, and
- conserve and deploy PPE appropriately.

**Recommendations:** MAGIC is making a recommendation to CMS to waive the 30/60 physician/provider visits in Skilled nursing facilities/Long term care during the COVID-19 National Emergency. MAGIC recommends providers continue working with nursing facility staff to prioritize essential visits over regulatory visits on medically stable residents.

### **References**

Notification of Enforcement Discretion for telehealth remote communications during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/notification-enforcement-discretion-telehealth/index.html>

Waivers and Flexibilities: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/novel-coronavirus-2019-Nursing-Homes-Preparedness-Checklist\\_3\\_13.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/novel-coronavirus-2019-Nursing-Homes-Preparedness-Checklist_3_13.pdf)

