

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Walder/Hyeman	10/31/11

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	101187	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	cc. Lynch cleared 11/1/11, letter attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE 11-10-11 DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Georgetown Healthcare & Rehab, Inc.

*2715 S. Island Road
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440*

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2011

September 5, 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Medicaid Cuts

Dear Governor Haley:

Just to introduce Georgetown Health Care and Rehab, we are an 84 bed skilled facility located in Georgetown, SC. We are certified as a Medicare and Medicaid dual licensed facility which means we can accept skilled as well as intermediate residents. This facility has been in operation since 1968 caring for mostly Georgetown County residents.

I came to Georgetown in 2005 and since that time the numerous cuts has put this facility in a financial crunch. The rate at that time was \$128.00 and now is \$118.00. That is a 8% decrease. Last year in 2010 we were allocated 24,250 beds (66 Medicaid residents) and 2011 reduction is 21,205 (58.09 Medicaid residents). SCDHHS gives us a 5% margin error. Presently there are three (3) facilities in Georgetown County, ourselves, Prince George Healthcare and National Healthcare in Murrells Inlet.

Our censuses for the past couple of years have been very low and mostly consist of Medicaid residents. Today we have 67 Medicaid with 3 Medicare, which possibly will be reverting to Medicaid. If so, we will be over 10 residents. If facilities are over in hand for the facility to stay in operation much less to pay a fine. Currently we are paying back two (2) fines. Last year because we were four (4) residents over allocation of days, our fine was \$59,000. We appealed the fine but lost. We ask as to who should be discharged and to where, there answer was "choose 4, put them on the side of the road and call APS". This non-caring attitude is unacceptable. Our residents are much more important to us.

The residents of Georgetown County will have no where to go when it is needed for someone to care for them should this facility go under. Some residents do not have family members to help them or will help them.

Ph. (843) 546-4123

P.O. Box 577, Georgetown, SC 29442

Fax (843) 527-4465

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At this time we have begun an admission log for those in need and unable to admit due to the cuts. This is growing steadily.

The cuts made should not have been toward the senior citizens, they are unable to care for themselves. We have residents needing teeth abstracted due to abscess. Medicaid will not cover this expense. Some of our residents do not have families that will assist in payment for dental abstractions.

Did anyone ask the facilities for suggestions on ways to cut the budget? The fraud that goes on in both Medicare and Medicaid of unnecessary charges would have help tremendously.

We have employees who refuse to work full time because they will loose state benefits. This also hurts the facility because of staff calling in increases overtime factor. Wages at Georgetown Heath Care and Rehab are lower than most facilities because of low census and Medicaid reimbursement cuts, our staff deserves more and so do our residents. As I'm sure you understand that the better pay facilities (according to SCDHHS some facilities receive up to \$142.00 ppd) will be able to hire a better educated worker and more staff. This is hard work and stressful industry. Try it yourself. You are welcome to come any time to our facility and see what we have to do to accommodate our residents.

You as Governor and Legislators have made a very bad decision in cutting nursing homes permit days. This especially hurts the small facilities. Those who are 84-88 bed facilities. Should this facility not survive then not only does the residents loose but the staff will not have jobs which effects unemployment rate in our county. We have approximately 85 employees at Georgetown Heath Care and Rehab.

I look forward to receiving a reply to my concerns. You may reach me at the number listed above. Again we invite you visit our Resident's home and staff.

Sincerely,


Sheila W. Raby
Administrator

cc: Senator Raymond E. Cleary, III
Representative Carl L. Anderson
Representative Kevin R. Ryan
Senator Yancey McGill

Brenda James - Re: Gov's office referral - letter from Georgetown Health Care

From: Sam waldrep
To: Jennifer Lynch; Teeshla Curtis
Date: 10/04/2011 6:35 PM
Subject: Re: Gov's office referral - letter from Georgetown Health Care
CC: Brenda James

yes, log it to Brenda Hyleman

>>> Jennifer Lynch 10/4/2011 5:53 PM >>>
The attached letter was forwarded from the Gov's office. It may need a little more than the general draft response. Sam, do you want this logged?

Either way, I need to get a copy of the signed copy that we send so I can share it with the Gov's office and close with them.

Thanks!!

Jenny Lynch,
Legislative Affairs and Communications
SC Department of Health and Human Services
(803) 898-3965
(803) 351-5673
(803) 255-8235 FAX

Brenda James - Fwd: Re: Gov's office referral - letter from Georgetown Health Care

From: Teeshla Curtis
To: Brenda James
Date: 10/31/2011 3:06 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Gov's office referral - letter from Georgetown Health Care
Attachments: Re: Gov's office referral - letter from Georgetown Health Care; Georgetown Health Care and Rehab - Referral from Gov's Office.PDF

Brenda,

Please log this letter to Sam/Brenda Hyleman.

Thanks,
Teeshla

> > Jennifer Lynch 10/31/2011 9:50 AM > >
I followed up with Brenda and Richard and neither of them had seen this one. Would you double check on this to ensure we haven't already responded and if it hasn't been logged, would you log it to Brenda as Sam suggests?

Thanks!!

Jenny Lynch,
Legislative Affairs and Communications
SC Department of Health and Human Services
(803) 898-3965
(803) 351-5673 Cell
(803) 255-8235 Fax

Brenda James - Log 000187

From: Teeshla Curtis
To: Brenda James
Date: 11/01/2011 4:06 PM
Subject: Log 000187
Attachments: Ref Log 000187 Response.PDF

Brenda,

Attached is the response for log 000187.

Teeshla

November 1, 2011

Sheila W. Raby
Administrator
Georgetown Healthcare and Rehab, Inc.
2715 South Island Road
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

Dear Ms. Raby:

This letter is in response to your recent correspondence to Governor Nikki Haley concerning the reduction to Medicaid Nursing Home Permit Days. The decision to reduce Medicaid permit days by eight (8) percent was recommended by providers in lieu of another rate reduction, effective July 1, 2011. At the same time, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) expanded the number of slots in its home and community based waiver program by 550 to serve current demand.

SCDHHS is currently monitoring access issues to ensure adequate care. As one way of assuring that people are in the most appropriate setting, we recently made an exemption to the Community Long Term Care (CLTC) waiting list to allow persons hospitalized and at risk of nursing facility placement to go to the top of the priority list. Home and community based services, as an alternative to institutional care, cost taxpayers much less (\$32 per day on average compared to \$127 a day). This will challenge our resources and capabilities as we shift to a more responsive system.

We are also encouraging partnerships between hospitals and nursing facilities to develop creative alternatives in the flow of consumers between stages in the continuum. A group of hospital discharge planners and nursing facility representatives have met four times with SCDHHS since this reduction was implemented in July to monitor the flow of patients to and from facilities. This group has made several recommendations that are being implemented. Finally, the Department is also finalizing a proposal to send to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create a complex care program for those persons who are hospitalized and need a very high level of nursing care to meet their needs.

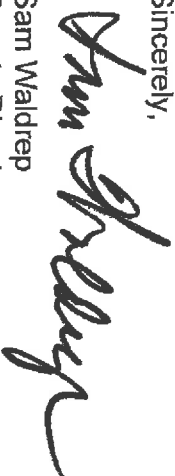
During the first quarter of the state fiscal year, the reduction in Medicaid beds resulted in many of the nursing facilities being over their allotment, but we anticipate that the numbers will be adjusted to their allotted number based on their attrition rate. At some point during the fiscal year, they will once again have available beds to fill with approved Medicaid recipients. As we approach the upcoming legislative session, SCDHHS will be convening a workgroup in November to review the Medicaid permit day law and recommend proposed changes. The South Carolina Nursing Home Association will be invited to participate in this workgroup.

Ms. Sheila Raby
November 1, 2011
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Determining which programs and services to offer during such difficult times is always challenging. The agency's mission is to purchase the most health care for those in need at the least cost to taxpayers. We truly value your suggestions and concern for the overall health of this state, especially as we continuously strive to provide services that work to improve health.

We appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention and for your interest in the South Carolina *Healthy Connections* Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Waldrep", written in a cursive style.

Sam Waldrep
Deputy Director