

Department of Human Services

Division of Aging Services
Office of Community Choice Options

Policy Guidance:

Date: <i>11/14/2022</i>	Effective Date: <i>11/15/2022</i>	Policy Reference: <i>LTC-2, Notification From Nursing Facility</i>
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Background:

The Hospital Enhanced At-Risk Criteria (EARC) Screening is the process utilized for an individual currently in a New Jersey acute or long-term acute care (LTAC), non-psychiatric hospital setting who is seeking admittance to a Medicaid Certified Nursing Facility (NF), or Special Care Nursing Facility (SCNF) Ventilator Unit with an expectation of billing NJ Medicaid for all or part of their stay. Individuals with valid clinical eligibility or NJ FamilyCare managed care enrollment are not eligible for EARC.

Effective November 15, 2022, an EARC is valid for up to 6 months (180 days) as long as there is no break in service from the admitting facility. No break in service is defined as a continuous stay at the admitting facility. Acute care hospitalizations for fewer than 10 days with a return to the same facility is not considered a break in service. Previously, an EARC was only valid for one nursing facility admission requiring a new EARC upon hospitalization for any length of stay. This change also impacts both the eligibility and exclusion criteria for EARC. Hospital EARC Screeners have been advised of these changes, which include the following:

The Hospital EARC, once authorized by OCCO is valid for a nursing facility admission within 10 calendar days. Upon nursing facility admission, the EARC serves as up to 180-day authorization for NF placement, which is contingent upon full clinical and financial Medicaid eligibility within 180 days of admission to the NF as per N.J.AC. 8:85-1.8(b.1.). Once clinical eligibility and/or NJ FamilyCare managed care enrollment occurs, EARC is no longer required.

A new Hospital EARC is not required for hospital admissions for fewer than 10 days with a return to the same facility, if current EARC authorization date is within last 6 months. NOTE: If the 10 bed-hold days are exhausted, then a new EARC must be conducted.

The following provides the revised target population and exclusions:

A. Eligibility Guidelines for the Hospital EARC Screening

Target Population:

The Hospital EARC Screening process is indicated for individuals who are:

1. Discharging from:
 - a. An acute, non-psychiatric hospital setting; or
 - b. A Long Term Acute Care Unit (LTAC); and

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2. New admission to a Medicaid Certified Nursing Facility or Vent SCNF with an expectation of billing Medicaid for all or part of their stay:
 - a. Currently Medicaid eligible but not yet enrolled in a NJ FamilyCare Managed Care Organization (MCO); **or**
 - b. Potentially Medicaid eligible within 180 days.

NOTE: MCO enrollment cannot be initiated or changed during hospitalization. The enrollment at time of hospital admission is continued; scheduled enrollment change is deferred to 1st of month after D/C from hospital setting.

NOTE: Includes NF residents who have exhausted the 10-day bed hold and will be returning to the same NF upon discharge.

Exclusions – NOT ELIGIBLE FOR HOSPITAL EARC, REQUIRES ONSITE OCCO CLINICAL ASSESSMENT:

The following individuals are not eligible for EARC and requires submission of completed LTC-4, Referral for Onsite OCCO Clinical Assessment form, available via the EARC Portal, as well as from the DoAS forms website at: <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/forms.html>.

1. Individuals who are being referred for placement in a Special Care Nursing Facility (SCNF):
 - a. AIDS, Behavioral, Huntington's, Neurologically Impaired, Pediatric or TBI;
2. Individuals who are in a Psychiatric Hospital or Psychiatric Acute Care Unit.

Other Exclusions – NOT ELIGIBLE FOR HOSPITAL EARC or ONSITE OCCO CLINICAL ASSESSMENT:

1. Individuals who are seeking Home and Community Based Waivers returning to the community;
2. Individuals who would not qualify for Medicaid within 6 months of NF placement and would be considered private pay;
3. Individuals who have a valid PAS on file (full clinical eligibility for Medicaid);
4. Individuals enrolled in NJ FamilyCare with a MCO upon entrance to hospital;

NOTE: If MCO enrolled, an authorization for NF placement must be obtained from the MCO.
5. Individuals pending Medicaid with a valid EARC within last 180 days (6 months) and are returning to the same NF within the 10-day bed hold time period;
6. Individuals whose PASRR Level II determination indicates "Requires Specialized Services";
7. Individuals who are medically unstable including those in the Emergency Room;
8. Individuals who are not in a NJ hospital.

NOTE: The EARC Screener may need to explore alternative options to nursing facility placement.

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B. LTC2 Notice of Admission and Notice of Discharge

1. Notice of Admission is required for any new admission
 - a. The NF Portal allows an LTC-2A to be linked to an active EARC
2. Notice of Discharge is required when a 10-day bed hold has been exhausted
3. Acute care hospital stays of less than 10 days with return to the same NF does not require a Notice of Discharge or new Notice of Admission

C. Nursing Facility Portal

All Medicaid certified NFs are encouraged to register and become active in the NF Portal for the submission of LTC2. All related registration forms can be found at the following website:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/resources/> .

Upon full completion, all forms must be emailed to DoAS-NFPortal.Registration@dhs.nj.gov .