

**WSR 21-18-065**  
**EMERGENCY RULES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

[Filed August 26, 2021, 2:50 p.m., effective September 7, 2021]

Effective Date of Rule: September 7, 2021.

Purpose: The department is extending the amendment of the rules listed below to assure [ensure] nursing homes are not significantly impeded from admitting and caring for residents during the COVID-19 outbreak. These amendments will continue to align state nursing home rules with federal rules that are suspended or amended to help facilitate care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal rules were amended to delay the requirement by 30 days for a preadmission screening and resident review (PASRR) screening prior to admission to a nursing home. Federal rules also amended requirements that ensure residents can meet in groups. These rules also establish the right of residents to participate in resident groups. Under the rule development phase of the rule-making process, the department is in discussions about adding language to the rules that explains the circumstances and time periods under which suspension of rules due to COVID[-19] was necessary.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: [Repealing WAC 388-97-0920]; and amending 388-97-1915 and 388-97-1975.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 74.42.620.

Other Authority: Chapter 74.34 RCW.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The continued threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations is significant, especially for those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities.

PASRR: Current nursing home rules require a PASRR screen, typically performed by hospital staff prior to admission to a nursing home, followed by further evaluation from state agency staff or contractors under certain circumstances. Hospital staff continue to experience an extremely high workload during the pandemic due to the increased number of admissions, coupled with a reduced number of available staff. Additionally, face-to-face evaluation of the transferring resident continues to be restricted in many counties. The PASRR rule will align state nursing home rules with federal rules that were extended to help facilitate care during the COVID-19 outbreak by shortening the transfer time from hospital to nursing home and increasing the flexibility for nursing home staff to be able to prioritize immediate or emergency care needs of incoming residents.

Resident groups: Current rules establish resident rights to participate in resident groups and require the facility to assist with the organization of a group. Extending the amendment of these rules will permit facilities to restrict resident groups and meets the state and federal recommendations for social distancing and limited gatherings. Extending this amendment also aligns state rules with federal rules that were suspended to accomplish social distancing recommendations.

These emergency rules continue to be needed to align state nursing home requirements with suspended or amended federal requirements. Ongoing conversations with stakeholders also support continuation of these emergency rules until a clear timeline for reimplementation, consistent with federal reimplementation, is established. The department filed a CR-101 under WSR 21-11-062.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 3, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 3, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: August 26, 2021.

Katherine I. Vasquez  
Rules Coordinator

#### SHS-4799.4

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-18-026, filed 8/25/15, effective 9/25/15)

**WAC 388-97-1915 PASRR requirements (~~(prior to admission of)~~) for new residents.** (~~(Prior to every)~~) Within thirty days of admission (~~(of a new resident)~~), the nursing facility must:

(1) Complete a PASRR level I screening, or verify that a PASRR level I screening has been completed(~~(, and deny admission until that screening has been completed)~~).

(2) Require a PASRR level II evaluation, or verify that a PASRR level II evaluation has been (~~(completed)~~) requested when the individual's PASRR level I screening indicates that the individual may have serious mental illness and/or intellectual disability or related condition(~~(, and deny admission until that evaluation has been completed, unless all three of the following criteria apply and are documented in the PASRR level I screening:~~

(a) ~~The individual is admitted directly from a hospital after receiving acute inpatient care;~~

(b) ~~The individual requires nursing facility services for the condition for which he or she received care in the hospital; and~~

(c) ~~The individual's attending physician has certified that the individual is likely to require fewer than thirty days of nursing facility services)~~).

(3) (~~Decline to admit any individual whose PASRR level II evaluation determines that he or she does not require nursing facility services or that a nursing facility placement is otherwise inappropriate.~~

~~(4))~~ Coordinate with PASRR evaluators to the maximum extent practicable in order to avoid duplicative assessments and effort, and to ensure continuity of care for nursing facility residents with a serious mental illness and/or an intellectual disability or related condition.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW and 42 C.F.R. § 483.100-138. WSR 15-18-026, § 388-97-1915, filed 8/25/15, effective 9/25/15.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-18-026, filed 8/25/15, effective 9/25/15)

**WAC 388-97-1975 PASRR requirements after admission of a resident.** (~~Following~~) After the thirtieth day of a resident's admission, the nursing facility must:

(1) Review all level I screening forms for accuracy. If at any time the facility finds that the previous level I screening was incomplete, erroneous or is no longer accurate, the facility must immediately complete a new screening using the department's standardized level I form, following the directions provided by the department's PASRR program. If the corrected level I screening identifies a possible serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition, the facility must notify DDA and/or the mental health PASRR evaluator so a level II evaluation can be conducted.

(2) Record the evidence of the level I screening and level II determinations (and any subsequent changes) in the resident assessment in accordance with the schedule required under WAC 388-97-1000.

(3) Maintain the level I form and the level II evaluation report in the resident's active clinical record.

(4) Immediately complete a level I screening using the department's standardized form if the facility discovers that a resident does not have a level I screening in his or her clinical record, following directions provided by the department's PASRR program. If the level I screening identifies a possible serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition, notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator so a level II evaluation can be conducted.

~~(5) ((Notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator when a resident who was admitted on an exempted hospital discharge appears likely to need nursing facility services for more than thirty days, so a level II evaluation can be performed. This notification must occur as soon as the nursing facility anticipates that the resident may require more than 30 days of nursing facility services, and no later than the twenty-fifth day after admission unless good cause is documented for later notification.~~

~~(6))~~ Notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator when a resident who was admitted with an advance categorical determination appears likely to need nursing facility services for longer than the period specified by DDA and/or the mental health PASRR evaluator, so that a full assessment of the individual's need for specialized services can be performed. This notification must occur as soon as the nursing facility anticipates that the resident will require more than the number of days of nursing facility services authorized for the specific advance categorical determination and no later than five days

before expiration of the period (three days for protective services) unless good cause is documented for later notification.

~~((7))~~ (6) Immediately notify the DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator for a possible resident review when there has been a significant change in the physical or mental condition, as defined in WAC 388-97-1910, of any resident who has been determined to have a serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition. Complete a new level I screening for the significant change.

~~((8))~~ (7) Provide or arrange for the provision of any services recommended by a PASRR level II evaluator that are within the scope of nursing facility services. If the facility believes that the recommended service either cannot or should not be provided, the facility must document the reason(s) for not providing the service and communicate the reason(s) to the level II evaluator.

~~((9))~~ (8) Immediately complete a new level I screening using the department's standardized form if the facility finds that a resident, not previously determined to have a serious mental illness, develops symptoms of a serious mental illness, and refer the resident to the mental health PASRR evaluator for further evaluation.

~~((10))~~ (9) Provide services and interventions that complement, reinforce and are consistent with any specialized services recommended by the level II evaluator. The resident's plan of care must specify how the facility will integrate relevant activities to achieve this consistency and the enhancement of the PASRR goals.

~~((11))~~ (10) Discharge, in accordance with WAC 388-97-0120, any resident with a serious mental illness or intellectual disability or related condition who does not meet nursing facility level of care, unless the resident has continuously resided in the facility for at least thirty months and requires specialized services. The nursing facility must cooperate with DDA and/or mental health PASRR evaluator as it prepares the resident for a safe and orderly discharge.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.51 and 74.42 RCW and 42 C.F.R. § 483.100-138. WSR 15-18-026, § 388-97-1975, filed 8/25/15, effective 9/25/15.]

#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 388-97-0920      Participation in resident and family groups.