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MEMORANDUM

TO: Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) **NOTICE #:**032515-1-PC-SCBS

FROM: Samuel P. Verghese, Secretary

DATE: March 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Notice of Policy Clarification: Imminent Risk (IR) Definition and Designation

The purpose of this notice is to provide updated information regarding the imminent risk (IR) definition and designation. The designation no longer applies to individuals in nursing homes; rather, IR is defined as *“Individuals in the community whose mental or physical health condition has deteriorated to the degree that self-care is not possible, there is no capable caregiver, and nursing home placement is likely within a month or very likely within three (3) months.”*

Currently, the assessment will produce an IR designation if the answer is “Y” to the question: “The individual is transitioning out of a nursing facility (NF),” or “Y” to the question: “The individual is at imminent risk of NF placement.” These questions are respectively numbered 19 and 20 on the 701S, and 21 and 22 on the 701A and the 701B. The questions are noted “ASSESSOR/CM” in the 701D Assessment Instructions, requiring completion by the assessor or the case manager without asking the individual or the representative for a direct response.

Regarding question 19 (on the 701S) or 21 (on the 701A): “The individual is transitioning out of an NF,” certified screeners and assessors/case managers should respond, “N” because individuals in nursing homes are not considered IR according to the definition. It is the responsibility of certified screeners and assessors/case managers to screen and assess only individuals who are residing in the community (private residence, assisted living facility, or adult family care home). Please note that if an individual is currently in an NF and interested in NF services, long-term care program education should be provided, and the individual should be referred to CARES.

Regarding question 20 (on the 701S) or 22 (on the 701A): “Individual is at imminent risk of NF placement,” certified screeners and assessors/case managers should only respond “Y” if during completion of the assessment, the individual or their representative provides information that indicates the individual’s *“mental or physical health condition has deteriorated to the degree that self-care is not*

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possible, there is no capable caregiver, and nursing home placement is likely within a month or very likely within three (3) months.” The certified screener or assessor/case manager will not ask the individual or their representative the question but will instead check an answer based upon the observations by the screener or assessor. The screener or assessor will document justification for the designation in the appropriate “Notes and Summary” sections of the assessment form, including supervisor approval. Additionally, the Department may request Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to rescreen any individual ranked imminent risk prior to Enrollment Management System (EMS) release to confirm the IR designation.

This updated guidance is effective immediately, and contracts containing IR priority language will be amended. If you have any questions, please contact your contract manager. Thank you for your cooperation.