



Minnesota Department of Human Services



September 22, 2011

Dear Minnesota Care Provider:

This letter is intended to provide you with information about changes to the Long Term Care Consultation statutes (section 256B.0911 subdivision 3c) and how the changes affect you as a provider and the consumers you serve. In addition to background information, some guidance has been provided to help you while implementing the statute and working with consumers.

- Beginning in 2007, a partnership model was developed under the direction of the commissioner of human services known as “Transition to Consultation for housing with services.” The model consisted of a combination of telephone-based and in-person assistance which was provided to prospective residents of housing with services establishments offering assisted living services that chose to access the service. This model provided the Senior LinkAge Line® staff, county long term care consultants and housing with services providers with the opportunity to work more closely and collaboratively to assist Minnesota consumers.
- Minnesota has been moving in the direction of a single point of entry system to simplify consumers’ access into the long-term care system. The Department of Human Services requested a study conducted by the Wilder Foundation in 2009. The study results showed that consumers prefer to get information about options as early as possible. This study guided the changes to the statute.

Beginning October 1st, 2011, all prospective residents with a few exceptions*, that are signing a lease with a registered housing with services establishment will be required to call and talk to an expert in long term care by calling the Senior LinkAge Line®. Long term Care Consultation (LTCC) is required for nursing home admissions, regardless of source of payment for several decades. This is an extension of that requirement to registered housing with services establishments. When calling the Senior LinkAge Line®, consumers will get access Long-term Care Options Counseling and then get a verification code that signifies completion of the counseling. This is not a gatekeeping process.

People can decline the counseling and get the verification code that is required by law. Each consumer will receive the following interactive decision support as part of Long-term Care Options Counseling:

- A review of their current situation based on their values and preferences
- Connections to services that are available and can meet the consumers’ needs
- Help with a comparison of their financing options, which may help pay for their long-term care services
- A verification code to be provided to the registered housing with services establishment
- Follow-up with the consumer to ensure their needs have been met

If you are a registered housing with services provider, you will need to refer to the bulletin which will be located at the following link when it is finalized. This will provide you with the detailed protocol and how to implement this new law. *There are exceptions to this requirement – some people will not have to seek this counseling or get the code. The exceptions are listed in the DHS bulletin. Go to www.mnaging.org for a link to the DHS web site with the bulletin.



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A sample of materials that must be provided to each prospective resident by the registered housing with services establishment is included in this mailing. To obtain additional materials at no cost, call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433.

If you have any questions about this legislative change, please contact Elissa Schley at (651) 431-2584 or via e-mail at Elissa.J.Schley@state.mn.us. For information about exemptions, please refer to the upcoming bulletin issued on this topic.

Sincerely,

Loren Colman, Assistant Commissioner
Continuing Care Administration, Department of Human Services

Jean K. Wood, Executive Director
Minnesota Board on Aging