

COVID-19 Guidance for Healthcare Facilities for Discharge of Residents

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

Guidance for health care facilities, including hospitals, nursing facilities, and other entities for discharging residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Please note - patient and resident are used interchangeably in this document.

Discharge of Individuals with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 to Subsequent Care Locations

If a patient is departing via transport by <u>emergency medical services (EMS)</u>, EMS personnel should contact the receiving healthcare facility and follow previously agreed upon local or regional transport protocols. This will allow the healthcare facility to prepare for receipt of the patient.

If a COVID-19 test was not warranted based on CDC or MDHHS guidance, then a patient does not need to be tested prior to discharge from a facility. Residents with COVID-19 that require hospitalization can and should be discharged back to the facility of residence once they are clinically stable regardless of whether COVID-19 testing is still positive or not. Continued hospitalization until residents' test negative will overwhelm the healthcare system and should be avoided.

- Discharge of residents with confirmed COVID-19 disease to the originating facility or a separate facility with known COVID-19 cases is preferred as opposed to discharge to a facility without known cases of COVID-19.
- Health care facilities transferring patients should ensure communication about the patient's COVID-19 testing status, and Person Under Investigation (PUI) number, is included in transfer paperwork. This ensures there is no duplication testing (unless additional testing is clinically warranted).

The decision to discharge a patient from the hospital should be made based on the clinical condition of the patient. If Transmission-Based Precautions must be continued in the subsequent setting, the receiving facility must be able to implement all recommended infection prevention and control recommendations.

Medicare's Discharge Planning Regulations (which were updated in November 2019) requires that hospital assess the patient's needs for post-hospital services, and the availability of such services.

- When a patient is discharged, all necessary medical information (including communicable diseases)
 must be provided to any post-acute service provider.
- For COVID-19 patients, this must be communicated to the receiving service provider prior to the discharge/transfer and to the healthcare transport personnel.
 - CMS sub-regulatory guidance identifies infection control concern as an example of when clinical restrictions may be warranted.
 - Patients must be informed of his/her visitation rights and the clinical restrictions or limitations on visitation.
 - The development of such policies and procedures require hospitals to focus efforts on preventing and controlling infections, not just between patients and personnel, but also between individuals across the entire hospital setting (for example, among patients, staff, and