



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF TENNCARE
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

IMPORTANT MEMO

DATE: April 11, 2014
TO: Medicaid Nursing Facility (NF) Providers
TennCare Managed Care Organizations
FROM: Julie Johnson, Deputy
Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Operations
SUBJECT: **TPAES Changes Related to PAE Comments and Modified Approvals**

Effective April 15, 2014, two system modifications will be in place in the TPAES system. The first will allow TennCare PAE nurses to provide additional line-by-line comments on denied ADL deficiencies. The second will allow for the approval of a modified score on a particular ADL or related deficiency when supported by medical evidence.

First, starting April 15, 2014, TPAES will allow for the TennCare nurse to include in the line-by-line decision currently provided in TPAES *additional* comments regarding the denial of each ADL deficit, including specific inconsistencies or inadequacies in the medical evidence based on the information provided in the PAE assessment. These additional comments will also continue to be included in the denial notice provided to the submitter. Providing this additional feedback will assist the submitter in determining exactly what information is required to remedy the denied deficit. A denied deficit (or a deficit that is approved with a modified score as described below) may be remedied within 30 days by resubmitting the denied PAE and attaching current documentation that is consistent with the level of deficiency indicated on the PAE.

Second, modifications in TPAES will be in place to permit the TennCare PAE nurse to approve a modified score for an ADL or related deficiency based on information provided in the supporting medical documentation. Prior to this change, TennCare could only approve or deny the submitted score for each ADL deficiency. This is because TennCare is unable to alter an eligibility application. However, this system modification allows TennCare to preserve the integrity of the originally filed application while allowing for approval of a modified score when supported by medical evidence. These modifications are not intended to replace the vital service provided by PAE assessors. It is critical that NFs and other submitting entities make every effort to ensure that the assessment information submitted in the PAE accurately reflects the applicant's level of functioning, and that medical evidence submitted is consistent with and supports the functional deficits identified in the application. Remember that an assessor is certifying that the information provided in the PAE assessment is accurate.

In that regard, TennCare is also stepping up the monitoring of individual facility “error” rates, i.e. instances when the submitted score is not supported by the documentation included with the PAE, including instances when a modified score is approved. Ultimately, the assessment and documentation should always match such that a modified score would not be necessary. Initially, TennCare will require targeted technical assistance to facilities with high error rates to help improve the quality and accuracy of their PAE submissions. Over time, we will look to establishing a minimum standard or quality requirement, with potential sanctions to ensure submission of complete and accurate PAEs in order to minimize administrative burden on all entities and more importantly, ensure that individuals are able to access the appropriate level of care in a timely manner.

While these changes do not affect the PAE submission process in TPAES, they will impact acuity scores as well as PAE decision. It is therefore important for all TPAES users to fully understand these system modifications. An interactive training presentation has been created to walk TPAES users through these changes. This training is available online and can be found at

<http://stateoftennessee.adobeconnect.com/paeprocessadjustments/>.

If after reviewing the training material provided, you have questions regarding these modifications, please call TennCare’s Division of Long Term Services and Supports at 877-224-0219.