North Dakota
Insurance Department

Jon Godfread, Commissioner

BULLETIN 2020-11

TO: Insurance Carriers offering Major Medical and STLD Insurance Policies

FROM: Jon Godfread, Commissioner

DATE: November 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Waiver of Preauthorization/Precertification Requirements for In-State Post-Acute/Alternate Care Service Requests For Transfer from Acute Care Hospitals – COVID 19

In consideration of Executive Order 2020-03 declaring a state of emergency and Executive Order 2020-07 ordering state agencies to identify regulatory statutes that in any way delay the agency's ability to render maximum assistance, issued by Governor Doug Burgum , the North Dakota Insurance Department issues this Bulletin in response to the impact of COVID-19 on hospital capacity.

The Insurance Department recommends that insurance carriers issuing major medical plans and Short Term Limited Durations plans in the group and individual markets waive preauthorization/precertification requirements for in-state post-acute/alternate care service requests for transfer from acute care hospitals .

The Insurance Department has been advised that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a significantly reduced number of available staffed medical beds in North Dakota. The Insurance Department has been further advised that waiving these requirements for patients waiting on preauthorization/precertification to be transferred to their next facility will accelerate their transition, thereby assisting hospitals in making beds and other resources available for other more critical COVID-19 patients.

This Bulletin 2020-11 will expire on December 31, 2020, unless extended by the Commissioner.

Insurance carriers with questions related to this Bulletin are advised to contact the Insurance Department by phone at 701-328-2440 or by email at insurance@nd.gov.