STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

SECRETARIAL ORDER No. 7
Rescission of Secretarial Order No. 4: Mandatory Testing for Staff in Nursing Homes

December 31, 2020

Secretarial Order No. 4: Mandatory Testing for Staff in Nursing Homes (Secretarial Order No. 4) was published on September 21, 2020 under the authority delegated to me by Governor Cooper in Executive Order No. 165. Secretarial Order No. 4 replaced Secretarial Order No. 2 and required nursing homes to test in accordance with federal testing requirements published by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in *QSO-20-38-NH* (the federal requirements).

Over 98% of nursing homes regulated by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are under these federal requirements as a condition of participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Recognizing both DHHS' improved access to this federal data and the administrative burden created by duplicative testing and reporting mandates, I hereby rescind Secretarial Order No. 4.

DHHS' Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid) will publish additional guidance about ending testing reporting activity established under Secretarial Orders 2 & 4 and about funding availability to support continued testing.

Section II. Distribution.

This Secretarial Order shall be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; and (2) distributed to nursing home administrators and to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Secretarial Order.

Section III. Effective Date.

This Secretarial Order is effective immediately.

Signed this the 31st day of December 2020.

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary

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