



March 8, 2013

Dear Minnesota Health Care Provider:

This letter is intended to provide you with an update about the changes that were made to the Long Term Care Consultation statutes (section 256B.0911 subdivision 3e) and the Minnesota Board on Aging statutes (section 256.975, subdivision 7) during the 2012 legislative session. Your organization is receiving this letter because it has been identified as a certified health care home by the Minnesota Department of Health or is a Minnesota hospital.

The statutory changes that went into effect on October 1, 2012 have created closer working partnerships between the Senior LinkAge Line®, hospitals and certified health care homes. Some of these relationships already existed, however, these changes, under the direction of the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Human Services, promoted the development of standard protocols for referrals to identify older adults at-risk of nursing home placement, as well as those who have current or anticipated long-term care needs.

From October 1, 2012 - January 31, 2013, the Senior LinkAge Line® has received over 700 referrals from Minnesota hospitals and certified health care homes. Of these referrals, hospitals and certified health care homes reported that 23% of the patients needed help arranging services, 16% were lacking a caregiver or their current caregiver was overwhelmed, 14% had questions about Medicare and 10% needed help paying for their medications. This data represents very appropriate referrals being made to the Senior LinkAge Line® for options counseling. Thank you!

A small supply of brochures was mailed in late September 2012. Since October 1, 2012, we received feedback from hospitals and certified health care homes on developing a booklet to guide discussions about a referral to Senior LinkAge Line® that could be given to patients regardless of whether they decide to take a referral. This booklet was created based on your feedback and input. Included with this letter is a small supply of Senior LinkAge Line® booklets. These booklets replace the brochures mentioned above. More can be sent by calling the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433. There is no cost to getting more booklets.

As a reminder, the protocol for making referrals to the Senior LinkAge Line® is available at <http://www.mnaging.org/Advisor/LTCCE.aspx>. This protocol is not meant to replace risk identification tools used by hospitals and certified health care homes, but should be used to have the conversation with the patient and their caregiver, when they are identified for a referral.

Upon permission from the patient, the referral can be made one of three ways to the Senior LinkAge Line®:

- By Phone at 1-800-333-2433
- Online at www.mnaging.org
- By Fax at 1-877-783-4053

Additional information including the DHS Bulletin (#12-25-08) related to Long Term Care Consultation Expansion is available through the following link: <http://www.mnaging.org/Advisor/LTCCE.aspx>.

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.

Sincerely,



Loren Colman, Assistant Commissioner

Continuing Care Administration, Department of Human Services



Jean K. Wood, Executive Director

Minnesota Board on Aging