

Texas Department of State Health Services

PASRR: COUNTDOWN TO CHANGE

The New PASRR Process - Mitigating Your Risks

Timing is key to PASRR risk reduction.

Risk mitigation strategies include:

- **Carefully tracking and keeping up with PE requests whether they come in via fax or the Long Term Care Portal.**
- **Ensuring that requests for PEs are quickly communicated to the staff member who will perform the PE.**
- **Carefully coordinating with the Referring Entity to ensure that the individual will be available at the time you have scheduled the PE.**
- **Entering the referral information, the data from the PASRR Level I Screening, and the PE data into the Long Term Care portal in a timely manner.**
- **Monitoring staff response time for the completion of the PE and data entry into the TMHP Long Term Care Portal.**

In the January 2013 issue we asked the question “Are you ready for the upcoming changes to PASRR?”. In this issue we want to suggest some strategies to help you manage the risks associated the changes that are coming .

Timing is Key for the PE!

Every PASRR Evaluation (PE) will have an associated time requirement. The requirement for the completion of the PE for anyone who is not already admitted into a Nursing Facility (NF) is **72 clock hours** from the time you receive the request for the assessment from the Referring Entity.

While 72 hours may seem like a short time to complete the PE, there are several factors that can waste time in this crucial 72 hour window and increase risks to your agency.

Risk 1 – Being unaware that a request for a PE has been received. Did a fax requesting a PE come in after hours or over the weekend? Did someone forget to check the fax machine? Is the machine checked 7 days per week? Is the fax machine working?

Risk 2 –Failure to communicate that a request has been received. How do you ensure that the faxed request is brought to the attention of the staff member who is responsible for completing the PE in a timely manner?

Risk 3 - Lack of coordination with the Referring Entity. The designated staff member may travel to the location to perform a PE only to discover that the individual is unable to participate because they are undergoing a procedure or are scheduled for other activities. Proper coordination with the RE is essential to ensure that the PE is completed within the 72 hour window.

Risk 4 - PE Data is not entered into the TMHP Long Term Care portal immediately following the completion of the PE. Even if you have been diligent to ensure that the actual PE is completed quickly; if you fail to enter that data, the person **cannot be admitted** into an NF until the assessment data is entered into the system.

Additional Time Requirements

In addition to the 72 hour pre-admission requirement for certain individuals, there is a 7 day PE completion requirement for people who have already been admitted to a NF..

Performance Awareness

It is essential to respond to PE requests in a timely manner. To avoid conflicts with other community agencies (such as hospitals and nursing facilities) and to avoid performance penalties, it will be beneficial to establish a process that monitors the

timeliness of PASRR activities. Incorporating quality management protocols into your PASRR process can help to ensure a that you remain in compliance and remain in good standing with other entities that depend on you for timely completion of the PEs.

A Word to the Wise

In reviewing PASRR completion rates for State Fiscal Year 2012, it was noted that several LMHAs have not completed all of the PASRR Level II Evaluations referred to them.

DSHS **strongly suggests** that each LMHA carefully review its 2012 PASRR completion rates and plan now for how you will achieve a 100% completion rate while meeting the new, much stricter, time requirements for PE completion.

Upcoming PASRR Training

The Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership will be providing a series of regional PASRR training workshops for LMHAs in early May. Materials relating to these training opportunities will be mailed to you in the near future. Please review these materials when you receive them and plan for your PASRR staff to attend one of these workshops.