

Subchapter D. Relocation of Nursing Facility Beds

§12529. General Provisions

A. A nursing facility's approved beds (Medicaid facility need review approvals) cannot be relocated to a different service area, subject to the exceptions in Section 12529.C and Section 12529.D below.

B. Approved beds may be relocated in the same service area only under the following conditions.

1. Subject to the exceptions provided in Paragraphs 2 and 6, all of a nursing facility's approved beds must be relocated to a single new location.

a. The approval of any beds not relocated to that new location shall be revoked.

2. Notwithstanding the requirements of Subparagraph 1, a partial relocation of approved beds may be effected if the following conditions are met:

a. the approved beds are in a nursing facility owned by a hospital service district as of the date of adoption of this Rule and at the time of the partial relocation;

b. the partial relocation does not place the approved beds in a different service area;

c. the approved beds are relocated to the site of a currently operational hospital owned by the same or a different hospital service district.

i. If the new location is owned by a different hospital service district, the ownership of the approval of the relocated beds must be transferred to the hospital service district to which the beds are relocated; and

d. no more than 25 percent of the nursing facility's approved beds are relocated.

3. If, within five years after a partial relocation to a hospital site pursuant to Subparagraph 2, the hospital located at that site ceases operations, the relocated beds shall revert to the original facility from which they were relocated. This provision shall not apply to relocations which require a transfer of ownership of the approval of the relocated beds.

4. A hospital service district may relocate or transfer the ownership of the approval of approved beds pursuant to Subparagraph c only once.

5. Subparagraphs B.2, B.3 and B.4 are not intended to prohibit or restrict the relocation of all of the approved beds in a nursing facility by a hospital service district in accordance with Paragraph A and Subparagraph B.1.

6. The department may approve a one-time partial relocation/transfer of a nursing facility's approved beds (Medicaid bed approvals) to another operational nursing facility, provided that the following provisions are met.

a. The transferring nursing facility may relocate/transfer approved beds to another nursing facility pursuant to this subparagraph only once.

b. The transferring nursing facility may not relocate/transfer less than 10 approved beds to another nursing facility.

c. A transferring nursing facility may not relocate/transfer more than 25 percent of its approved beds to another nursing facility.

i. If the transferring nursing facility relocates /transfers more than 25 percent of its approved beds to another nursing facility, the approval of any beds not relocated to the receiving nursing facility shall be immediately revoked.

d. The approved beds relocated/transferred become approved beds of the receiving nursing facility, and the transferring nursing facility relinquishes all rights in those approved beds, but may retain licensure.

e. The relocation of approved beds is subject to the receiving facility having licensed-only capacity in order to accommodate the relocation/transfer. Under no circumstances shall a receiving nursing facility license additional beds in order to accommodate the relocated, approved beds.

f. All relocated, approved beds are subject to state and federal bed change guidelines and procedures.

g. The provisions of this rule pertaining to the splitting of facility need review approvals shall sunset in 24 months from the date of the promulgation of the final Rule and shall have no effect henceforth.

C. In addition to Subsection B, approved beds may be relocated in the same service district or same parish under the following conditions.

1. The department may approve a one-time partial relocation/transfer of a nursing facility's Medicaid facility need review (FNR) approvals to another licensed, certified, operational nursing facility in the same parish, provided that all of the following provisions are met:

a. The transferring nursing facility shall send a written request to the department's licensing section at least 30 days before the proposed transfer, for the department's review and approval.

b. The transferring nursing facility may relocate/transfer Medicaid FNR approvals to another nursing facility pursuant to Section 12529.C only once.

c. The transferring nursing facility and the receiving nursing facility shall be related companies which are under "common ownership."

i. For purposes of this Subsection, "common ownership" is defined as the same persons or entities owning at least 80 percent of both companies.

ii. For purposes of this Subsection, ownership includes, but is not limited to, shares in a corporation,

membership in a limited liability company, or partnership interest in a partnership or limited liability partnership.

d. The transferring nursing facility may not relocate/transfer less than 10 Medicaid FNR approvals to another nursing facility.

e. A transferring nursing facility may not relocate/transfer more than 25 percent of its Medicaid FNR approvals to another facility.

f. The Medicaid FNR approvals relocated/transferred become Medicaid FNR approvals of the receiving nursing facility, and the transferring nursing facility relinquishes all rights in those Medicaid FNR approvals, but may retain licensure of the licensed nursing facility beds.

g. At the time of the relocation/transfer of the Medicaid FNR approvals, the receiving facility shall have more licensed nursing facility beds than it has Medicaid FNR approvals. The number of Medicaid FNR approvals transferred shall not exceed the number of licensed-only beds (licensed nursing facility beds not having Medicaid FNR approval) at the receiving nursing facility; the receiving nursing facility is prohibited from receiving more Medicaid FNR approvals than can be utilized for the receiving nursing facility's current licensed bed capacity. Under no circumstances shall a receiving facility license additional beds in order to accommodate the relocated Medicaid FNR approvals. After the relocation, the receiving nursing facility shall have the same number of licensed beds as prior to the relocation.

h. All relocated Medicaid FNR approvals are subject to state and federal bed change guidelines and procedures.

i. The provisions of Section 12529.C pertaining to the transfer of Medicaid FNR approvals shall sunset in 24 months from the date of the promulgation of the final Rule implementing Section 12529.C and shall have no effect henceforth.

D. In addition to Paragraphs B and C of this Section, Medicaid FNR approvals of an existing licensed and certified nursing facility that is awaiting the completion of a replacement nursing facility building, may be temporarily relocated to a licensed building that may be outside of the service area or parish of the existing FNR approved service area or parish under the following conditions.

1. The department may approve a one-time temporary relocation of a nursing facility's Medicaid FNR approvals to another licensed building that may be outside the existing FNR approved service area or parish, provided that all of the following provisions are met:

a. The relocating nursing facility shall send a written request to the department's Health Standards Section at least 30 days before the proposed temporary relocation outside the existing FNR approved service area or parish, for the department's review and approval. This request shall include all good cause grounds for the temporary relocation

of the Medicaid FNR approvals. The department will determine if approval of the temporary relocation will be granted.

b. The nursing facility shall not temporarily relocate to a licensed building located in a service area or parish that is greater than 100 miles from the existing licensed service area or parish of the nursing facility.

c. The temporarily relocating nursing facility shall maintain the same number of licensed and Medicaid FNR approved beds as prior to the relocation.

d. All temporarily relocated Medicaid FNR approvals of the licensed and certified nursing facility are subject to compliance with all state and federal licensure/certification guidelines and procedures.

e. The temporary location shall be in compliance with all licensing and certification standards for nursing facilities, and receive a temporary nursing facility license issued by the department.

f. The temporary license shall expire 6 months from the date of issuance and the facility shall relocate to its new replacement nursing facility building during that period. One extension of the temporary license, not to exceed 90 days, may be granted by the department for good cause shown.

g. During the period of temporary licensure, the nursing facility shall not accept any new admissions to the facility.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and 40:2116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 21:806 (August 1995), amended LR 25:1250 (July 1999), LR 28:2190 (October 2002), LR 30:1023 (May 2004), LR 32:845 (May 2006), LR 34:2619 (December 2008), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 36:1009 (May 2010), amended by the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services Financing LR 46:953 (July 2020), LR 47:1306 (September 2021).