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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |  
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 95 LCM-96

Date: August 17, 1995

Division: Health and Long  
Term Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Expedited Hospital Discharge Programs (Bridge Programs) or  
Similar Programs

ATTACHMENTS: None

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform you that the enactment of Chapter 81 of the Laws of 1995 will require significant modification to the Expedited Hospital Discharge Program, known as the Bridge Program or any similar program.

The Bridge program and other similar programs place individuals discharged from the hospital into certified home health agencies (CHHAs) without determining if their needs could be met more appropriately and cost effectively through the provision of personal care service.

Section 367-P(a) of Social Services Law now requires local districts with programs like the Bridge, to ensure that those individuals are reviewed for transfer to the Personal Care Program within two weeks of discharge, and if found appropriate, transferred to the Personal Care Program within four weeks of hospital discharge.

This law was enacted due to concerns about the growing number of individuals who continued to receive home health services for extended periods of time even when their needs could have been met appropriately with less costly services.

It is expected that local districts will implement these new provisions by September 15, 1995. Therefore, I am requesting that districts with such programs submit the following information to this Department, no later than September 1, 1995:

1. A description of the modifications that will be made to the Bridge program or any similar program to ensure that prospectively all individuals placed directly in CHHAs upon discharge from the hospital are assessed and/or transferred to personal care within the required time-frames.
2. Copies of the letters which will be sent by the local Department of Social Services to local hospitals and CHHAs informing them of the new procedures.
3. Identification of the number of individuals, by CHHA, currently receiving home health services under the Bridge program or any similar program who have not been assessed for personal care services and/or transferred to personal care services, if appropriate.
4. A description of the procedures and time-frames for completing the personal care assessments for those individuals indicated in #3.

The requested information should be faxed to (518) 486-4112 or submitted to the following address, no later than September 1, 1995:

Ms. Mary Jane Conroy  
New York State Department of Social Services  
Division of Health and Long Term Care  
Bureau of Long Term Care  
40 North Pearl Street  
Albany, New York 12243

My staff is available to provide any technical assistance you may need. If you or your staff wish to discuss this matter further please contact Mary Jane Conroy at (518) 473-5565 or E-Mail 89a808. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

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Richard T. Cody  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Health & Long Term Care