

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

EOEA issued [guidance](#) and DPH issued an [Order](#) today extending the skilled nursing services allowed in assisted living under the current Public Health Emergency with some limitations and additional requirements, until 12:01AM on February 1, 2022, or the guidance and/or Order are rescinded, or until the Public Health Emergency is rescinded by the Governor, whichever shall happen first. The limitation of this order, distinct from prior related orders with respect to skilled services, is that residents are eligible to receive the services only if such care is in place in their plan of care as of 12/15/21. Additional requirements include that, "Any ALR providing skilled care must create a transition plan for Residents receiving skilled care to be implemented at the expiration of the Order. This plan must be signed by the Resident, the Resident Representative, or Legal Representative, and submitted to EOEA by January 15, 2022. The EOEA guidance summarizes the documentation required in each resident's record, which includes, "medical orders for skilled care, Resident consent, Resident evaluations, a notice of charges, and the skilled care provided."

Please note that reporting requirements are still in place for any ALR providing the services, as described in the EOEA guidance.

The [staffing and training flexibilities](#) in the prior Public Health Emergency Order have not been extended. Those flexibilities expire at 12:01AM on December 15, 2021.

Mass-ALA advocated for legislative and regulatory extensions of health services, staffing, and training flexibilities. Although the Massachusetts Senate adopted an extension of those in their version of a bill in November, the language was not adopted by the Conference Committee that negotiated a final bill, and thus was not signed into law and is not in effect. We continue to advocate for the Common Sense Health Services bill to allow basic health services to be provided permanently in assisted living.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org

**The information provided in this COVID-19 update is solely for general informational purposes to assist in understanding the evolving guidance regarding the current COVID-19 public health threat. It is not intended to be a primary public health or medical resource but is provided as a clearinghouse for or compilation of various guidance issued by official and related sources.*