TO: Christa Ballew, Vice President Ascend  
FROM: Nicole Rooney/Office of Aging and Disability Services  
DATE: March 17, 2020  
SUBJECT: Telephonic Assessments

This memo provides guidance regarding the permissibility for telephonic Medical Eligibility Determination (MED) and Pre-Admission Screening Resident Review (PASRR) assessments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to reduce spread and community exposure to COVID-19, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is temporarily suspending all in-person, face-to-face MED or PASRR assessments required under 10-144 Maine Care Benefits Manual, 10-149 Ch. 5 Office of Aging and Disabilities Policy Manual Part 1 and 14-197 Office of Aging and Disabilities Policy Manual Part 2.

Effective immediately, all face-to-face initial and re-assessments shall be conducted telephonically. As clinically appropriate, initial MED assessments may be authorized for a period of up to six (6) months and MED re-assessments are to be authorized for up to one (1) year.

The suspension of face-to-face assessments is effective for a period of 30 days. On or before April 17, 2020, guidance will be given to resume face-to-face assessments or to extend the practice of telephonic assessments.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this memo, please contact Nicole Rooney at nicole.rooney@maine.gov.

cc Paul Saucier/ OADS Director  
Karen Mason/ OADS Associate Director