



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

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JANUARY 16, 2025 UPDATES FROM THE MEDICARE LEARNING NETWORK (MLN)

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

We are writing to inform providers of the most recent guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) through the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN). The MLN Connects newsletter is a weekly email sent out by CMS that compiles Medicare news, educational events, and information regarding Medicare policies for healthcare providers.

The information released for January 16, 2025, is as follows:

Telehealth Flexibilities Extended until March 31

Recent legislation extended the waiver of the geographic, site of service, and practitioner type restrictions. Medicare patients in non-rural areas and in their homes can continue to get telehealth services from this extended range of practitioners *until March 31, 2025*.

CMS Launches Campaign to Increase Nursing Home Staffing by Nursing Professionals

CMS launched a national [Nursing Home Staffing Campaign](#), aimed at increasing the number of nurses working in nursing homes and state agencies that inspect nursing homes for compliance with CMS' health and safety standards, the goal of improving and protecting residents' health and safety. The campaign is in response to feedback from nursing home staff and residents highlighting staffing as their primary concern. The campaign's efforts include highlighting [nursing home careers](#) available for nursing professionals at all staffing levels.

Change of Ownership: Both Parties Must Submit Enrollment Applications Within 30 Days

Providers and suppliers [must report a change of ownership](#) (CHOW) within 30 days of the change. For certified providers undergoing a CHOW, 42 CFR 424.550 states:

- Both the seller and the buyer must submit enrollment applications to report the CHOW
- If the seller fails to submit an enrollment application to report the CHOW, the seller may be sanctioned or penalized (even after the date of the ownership change).
- If the buyer fails to submit an enrollment application containing information about the buyer within 30 days of the CHOW, the provider's billing privileges may be deactivated

For additional information:

- See [Medicare Provider Enrollment](#) for more information.
- Visit [CMS Email Updates](#) to subscribe to the weekly email newsletter or [MLN Connects Newsletter](#) to read past editions.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety.

If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Meyers, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 464-0373.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Partnering with People"