

# COVID-19 Guidance

Date: **Friday, August 21, 2020**

Time: **8:20am**

**Client Assessment, Referral and Evaluation (CARE) Program – Effective August 21, 2020 KDADS will be extending the suspension of the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) process for an additional 30 days.**

**The suspension includes CARE Level I screens, special admissions (columns A & B on the CARE form) and PASRR Level II evaluations.**

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency period, to encourage social distancing and stop the spread of the pandemic, KDADS is providing guidance regarding the federal PASRR requirement. This guidance provides information to the four stakeholders who assist with the PASRR requirement.

**Area Agencies on Aging and Trained hospital assessors:** For the next 30 days, the PASRR/CARE Level I assessment is **being suspended and does not need to be completed by the AAA or trained hospital assessors**, prior to admission to a Kansas nursing facility **The Level I CARE Assessment must be completed within 30 days of admission to a Kansas Medicaid Licensed nursing facility or nursing facility for mental health**. Only the following is allowed, and the assessment will not be accepted by KDADS CARE if not followed:

1. PASRR section (B) of the level I assessment may only be completed face to face or by using televideo consultations/telemedicine or telehealth services methods that meet the following criteria:
  - a. Comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);
  - b. Such a process must provide interactive audio or video communications, permitting real-time contact between a distant provider, who is present and participating in the visit, and the individual and their family receiving an appointment.
2. The remaining part of the CARE Level I assessment, **this does not include the PASRR or a Level II**, may be completed via telephone is necessary.
3. All CARE level I assessments that trigger a level II PASRR Evaluation will require the level II documentation must be gathered by the conducting assessor and sent in by the assessor to KDADS CARE Program. This includes:
  - a. Physically Signed Release of information and Certificate of CARE
  - b. Legal documents when applicable
  - c. Treatment history information when applicable
  - d. IQ information when applicable
  - e. Diagnosis information
  - f. Most recent history and physical
  - g. If any of the documentation is unable to be attend for any reason, please submit the reason in the email with the paperwork that is submitted to the KDADS CARE Program @ KDADS.CARE@ks.gov

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4. The release of information and the certificate of CARE MUST be physically signed. They may only be signed by the client, Active durable power of attorney for healthcare or Guardian.
5. If the AAA assessor is unable to complete the CARE Level I for any reason please submit a request for extension to [KDADS.CARE@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.CARE@ks.gov) it will be assumed this assessment will be completed as soon as it is able or as soon after the suspension as possible. Do not cancel the assessment, just request an extension and hold it until it can be completed.

**Kansas Medicaid Nursing Facilities:** For the next 30 days, the CARE Level I assessment, Level II PASRR evaluation and the special admissions are **being suspended and do not need to be completed**, prior to admission to a Kansas nursing facility. As such, a CARE Certificate is not required, upon admission. **That said, the nursing facilities and nursing facility for mental health will be required to contact the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to conduct a CARE Level I assessment within 30 days from the date of admission to your facility.** Please note you will still need to process the 2126 to be sent into the clearinghouse for admissions and discharges as this guidance does not exclude that.

- Less than 30-day Admissions: Documentation does not need to be complete or sent to KDADS CARE, nor is a less than 30-day order needed for PASRR. Contact the local AAA if the client will reside in the nursing facility past 30 days, from the date of admission.
- Emergency Admission: Documentation does not need to be completed or sent to KDADS CARE, nor does an emergency order need to be completed for PASRR. Contact the local AAA if the client will reside in the nursing facility past 30 days, from the date of admission.
- Respite Stay Admissions: Documentation does not need to be completed or sent to KDADS CARE, nor does a respite order need to be completed for PASRR. Contact the local AAA if the client will reside in the nursing facility past 30 days, from the date of admission.
- Terminal Illness Admissions: Documentation does not need to be completed or sent to KDADS CARE, nor does a hospice or terminally ill order need to be completed for PASRR. Contact the local AAA if the client will reside in the nursing facility past 30 days, from the date of admission.
- Out of State Admissions: Section A&B of the level I CARE Assessment does not need to be completed. The KDADS Fax Memo does need to be completed. Please send in the other states PASRR.
- Please assist the AAA and the level II PASRR evaluators in completing these assessments, please help them get signatures when needed, and assist in video conferencing so the assessment can be completed.
- The nursing facility will be responsible to ensure that all their residents have a PASRR CARE Level I on file by the end date of the suspension.
- If your facility is in need of technology equipment please go to the KDADS website [www.kdads.ks.gov/](http://www.kdads.ks.gov/) and locate the grant information from CMS regarding technology equipment.

**Healthsource Integrated Solutions (HIS):** For the next 30 days, the PASRR Level II evaluations are **being suspended**. After 30 days, Level II evaluations and Resident Reviews for mental health (MI) or intellectual disability (ID) will receive an evaluation as soon as resources become available. If HIS in coloration with the community mental health centers (CMHC) or community developmental disability organizations (CDDO) is available to complete the level II PASRR evaluation during this time even with the suspension the following is approved telecommunications from KDADS. **Telephone assessments**

New England Building  
503 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66603-3404



Phone: (785) 296-4986  
Fax: (785) 296-0256  
kdads.wwwmail@ks.gov  
www.kdads.ks.gov

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are not allowed for any reason with the level II. If you cannot complete the assessment you will need to request and extension with HIS.

2. Assessments may be completed face to face or by using televideo consultations/telemedicine or telehealth services methods that meet the following criteria:
  - a. Comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);
  - b. Such a process must provide interactive audio or video communications, permitting real-time contact between a distant provider, who is present and participating in the visit, and the individual receiving an appointment.

The exception granted through this guidance is effective through [September 21, 2020](#), at which time the guidance will be revisited, as deemed necessary.

**Amy Penrod**  
Commissioner  
Aging & Disability Community Services & Programs  
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services  
503 S. Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66603-3404