



Guidance for Long-Term Care Facilities to Assist Residents Requesting Electronic Monitoring Device Placement, Discontinuance or Removal

GUIDANCE AS OF AUGUST 28, 2020

Due to concern for spread of COVID-19, current state and federal guidelines are in place that restrict visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel to residents of long-term care facilities.^{1,2} Effective August 28, 2020, the Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act became law.³ This law allows residents in long-term care facilities the right to install and use an electronic monitoring device in the resident's room and permits the resident's guardian or legal representative who wish to help to install an electronic monitoring device have the right to access the resident's room.

Having a process to help residents and family members remain connected is extremely beneficial for a resident's well-being.

This guidance is intended to assist long-term care facilities to accommodate a request for placement, discontinuance or removal of an electronic monitoring device. Nothing in this guidance requires a facility to allow access to the facility for installation, discontinuance or removal of an electronic monitoring device. Likewise, nothing in this guidance prohibits a facility from installing a device upon request of the resident, guardian or legal representative. Any terms or conditions required for a facility to install, remove or discontinue a device are strictly between the resident, guardian or legal representative and the facility.

Requests to Place, Remove or Discontinue an Authorized Electronic Monitoring Device:

- Requests must comply with the Missouri Authorized Electronic Monitoring Device Act, sections 198.610-198.632, RSMo, including obtaining proper consent.³
- If a facility chooses to allow access to a guardian, legal representative or professional electronic monitoring device installer, the following should be considered:
 - The resident's guardian or legal representative who is requesting access for installation, removal or discontinuance of a device must comply with the facility's screening requirements, including limiting their access to their loved one's room, performing hand hygiene, and using personal protective equipment (PPE), including facemasks, as directed by the facility.
 - If a resident or the resident's guardian or legal representative requests that a professional installer be granted access to install, remove or discontinue a device or set up internet access, this may be considered by the facility as long as the installer complies with all screening requirements and restrictions as above.
 - If the resident is experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, or the facility is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak, installation, removal or discontinuance should be delayed until the resident has recovered and the outbreak is under control as determined by the Administrator or manager.
 - Anyone with symptoms of possible COVID-19 should not enter the facility at any time.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

- Efforts should be made to bundle multiple requests so that installations, removals or discontinuances may be completed in a single visit.

References:

1. CMS: Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes (REVISED)
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/qso-20-14-nh-revised.pdf>
2. Missouri Guidance on Reopening of Long-Term Care Facilities
<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/missouri-guidance-on-reopening-of-long-term-care-facilities.pdf>
3. Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act 198.610-198.632, RSMo.
<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=198>