



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 13, 2021

Dear Administrator:

This provides you with information about the Advanced Training Initiative (ATI) program. \$46 million was appropriated to implement an advanced training program initiative aimed at educating staff to detect early changes in a resident's physical and mental or functional status that could lead to an avoidable hospitalization. This proposal rewards nursing home providers who have shown an ability to retain quality direct care staff and are willing to make a commitment to provide direct care staff the tools to help lower resident hospitalization rates.

The New York State Department of Health (The Department), working with industry experts, has designed a program to determine which facilities would be eligible to apply for this ATI program. Your residential health care facility has been determined, using existing cost report data, to be eligible to apply for program funding. Under the payment methodology for the 2020-21 ATI, eligible nursing homes will be distributed funds to offer training programs aimed at early detection of patient decline in order to reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

Skilled Nursing Facilities in New York State with direct-care staff retention rates above the state median are eligible to apply for funding, with the exception of hospital-based skilled nursing facilities and facilities that have received quality improvement grants through the New York State Department of Health Value Access Provider Pool. Eligible facilities with direct care staff retention higher than the state median would receive an add-on to their fee-for-service Medicaid rate. With an approved training program, an estimated minimum per diem of \$3.19 for each Medicaid day as reported in the 2019 RHCF-4 will be granted to the approved facilities.

(Medicaid 0410/009 & Managed Care Days 0410/032) X Per Diem of \$3.19 = Award Amount

In order to be eligible for this program, participating providers will be required to develop (or continue) a training curriculum designed to assist help direct care staff in identifying changes in a resident's physical, mental, or functional status that could lead to hospitalization. Providers would also need to create (or continue) a formal policy encouraging continuity of care. Both the training program and continuity policy should be developed and implemented in coordination with a labor-management partnership program. Eligible facilities will need to submit an application to the department for approval.

If you are interested in applying for the program, please submit the required application to the Department for review. The information on the application as well as instructions for the application follows:

Please note that the completed application is due to the Department no later than January 27, 2021.

Posting of Application and Instructions

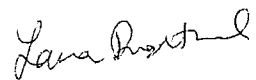
Individual facilities can find Instructions and the final application on the link included below.

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5889093/Advanced-Training-Initiative-ATI-2020-2021>

Email Address

If you have any questions regarding the Advanced Training Initiative, please send an email with the subject line **ATI Questions** to nfrates@health.ny.gov and Michelle Santos will respond to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Rosenthal".

Laura Rosenthal
Director
Bureau of Residential Health Care
Reimbursement
Division of Finance and Rate Setting
Office of Health Insurance Programs