Dear Residents, Families, and Responsible Parties,

On November 18, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued revised interpretative guidance within the Requirements of Participation for nursing home providers. As we participate in Medicare & Medicaid programs, we are required to implement these changes before February 24, 2025. To assist with a seamless transition, we wanted to take the time to notify you of a few of the changes that you may note as we work towards complying with the revisions.

* **Revised admission agreement**. Our admission agreement will be revised to include that when another entity, such as an insurance company, is not responsible for paying for a resident’s care, the resident’s personal funds will be utilized to pay for care and services. This includes that a third party, who is legally able to assist the resident, pays for care and services from the resident’s personal account. The third-party individual will not be liable for payment.
* **Implementing/revising discharge policies and procedures.** Our discharge policy and procedures will be revised to ensure that our staff are only discharging residents when it is appropriate to do so and will aid the resident and their caregivers in securing a discharge location and support services that are necessary and in accordance with the resident’s preferences.
* **Implementation of an informed consent for psychotropic medications.** Psychotropic medications include drugs that affect brain activities associated with mental processes and behaviors such as antipsychotics, antidepressants, antianxiety, and hypnotics. The informed consent will include potential benefits and risks of medication use, what alternative treatment options we have attempted, and any black box warnings issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). You or your designated responsible party will either consent to or deny use of the psychotropic medication prescribed by your physician.
* **Implementation of an informed consent for opioid medications.** Opioids are a class of medicines that are used to provide relief from moderate to severe acute or chronic pain. However, when misused, the person is at risk of developing a substance misuse disorder. The informed consent includes benefits and risks of using an opioid to assist with pain management, what alternative treatment options we have attempted, and the FDA’s warning related to use of opioid medications. You or your responsible party will be asked to consent to or deny use of the opioid medication.

CMS made these changes based on ongoing nursing home initiatives to enhance the quality of care provided to individuals in nursing homes across the United States. As a quality provider of care and services, we have already established similar practices. However, we are taking additional steps to ensure that compliance with the Requirements of Participation for Medicare and Medicaid Services is clear to avoid potential noncompliance deficiencies in the future.

Please see **[Enter Staff Members Name/Title]** if you have any questions regarding these changes.

Sincerely,

**[Enter Signature and Title]**