COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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To Whom It May Concern:

Ascend Management Innovations contracts with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to complete federally required Preadmission Screens (PASRR). These assessments are conducted for individuals, suspected or known to have serious mental illness, intellectual or developmental disability/related condition, who are seeking admission to a nursing facility.

PASRR Process Overview and Documentation Requirements

The assessment has three main components:

1. **Document Review:** Thoroughly reviewing referral and clinical documentation.
2. **Interview:** Completing a scheduled onsite face-to-face interview of the individual.
3. **Determination:** Providing a written summary of findings, a copy of which will be provided to the referrer, the individual and his/her guardian if indicated, and to the individual's primary physician if known.

To initiate the PASRR assessment, Ascend must receive all of the following required documents:

From the referring entity:

- Completed **UAI**
- Completed **DMAS 95** form
- **Guardianship** documentation, if applicable

From the individual's physician(s) or other providers:

- Medical **History & Physical** for the individual (must have been completed within the most recent 12 months and signed by physician)

- **Psychiatric evaluation** if referring for serious mental illness (must have been completed within the most recent 12 months and signed by psychiatrist)
- **Intelligence Testing** if referring for intellectual disability (if scores are not available, Ascend has contracted with professionals who can conduct IQ testing)

Note: The individual cannot progress along the continuum until the PASRR process is complete. Therefore, please make every effort to submit the comprehensive set of information promptly.

PASRR and Protected Health Information (PHI)

The PASRR Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), commissioned by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), has clearly documented that **HIPAA permits providers to disclose protected health information (PHI) to other providers who are caring for, or providing services to, the same individual *without* consent** (http://www.pasrrassist.org/resources/federal-regulations/directors-corner-why-hipaa-not-barrier-getting-pasrr-done). PTAC references a guide to HIPAA recently released by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), a division of the federal Health and Human Services (HHS) agency. Version 2.0 of its *Guide to Privacy and Security of Electronic Health Information* is primarily applicable to physician groups and smaller health providers and businesses, but it provides a good overview of HIPAA for any "covered entity" (CE).

If you have any questions, please call Ascend Management Innovations at 877-431-1388. Ask for a Virginia PASRR representative.

Thank you for your help in complying with the federal requirements of PASRR so that Virginia residents with serious mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities or related conditions receive the services and supports they need to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

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