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On 3/10/2021 CMS Revised their visitation policy. The url for that policy is here: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf.

We have received some inquiries by family members who interpret this memo that the facility is "open" for unrestricted visitation. Unfortunately, Alta is unable to have unrestricted visitation. In the CMS memo, there is guidance relative to socially distancing and how much space visitors should have both from the visitor, the resident they are visiting, and other residents. Specifically, the memo states that visitors should maintain social distancing, wear masks covering their face and mouths, not walk around the halls of the facility and visitors should have limited movement with the facility. These requirements put restraints on where people can meet, and how many people can meet at a time.

We at Alta are taking the following steps to create a safe visitation, activity, and dining strategy:

- 1) Effective immediately, we are going back to normal in-house activities, such as bingo, exercise programs, movie viewing, and others. There will be no limits on the number of residents that can participate in an activity, so long as residents can maintain 6 feet of social distancing and wear masks, as tolerated during the activity. We will use the dining room for most activities, which offers a very large footprint for residents activities.
- 2) In the near future, we will reopen the dining room to resident meals. Eating in the dining room has proved a significant challenge during COVID. Every time a new facility case arose, we had to close the dining room, usually for weeks. Going forward, we will not be able to accommodate the same number of residents in the dining room as we previously had prior to the pandemic. But, we are excited to reopen the dining room to resident meals and are still working out the logistics of this changeover.
- 3) Hospice and other contracted clinicians will have significantly increased access to the building and residents. They must supply their own PPE, which must include a new surgical mask, KN95 mask, or N95 respirator. Additionally, they will be screened for COVID-19 prior to entry to the facility.

4) Prior to today, residents were asked to coordinate their visits with their families either outside or in the foyer of the building. Per the CMS guidelines, outdoor visitation is the prefered visitation strategy. However, the facility management team has identified one or two spaces for inside visits for bad weather or other circumstances. Going forward, we will use these identified areas for indoor visitation, disinfecting the space after each use. At this time, we will continue scheduling visits, which will allow us to effectively manage the required social distancing guidelines.

Thank you for your support and understanding. As always, please feel free to reach out to me via email, or phone, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Zachary S. Gray, NHA, MPH

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