



October 27, 2020

Dear Nursing Agency,

Thank you for your hard work and adaptability to serve our Home Care participants. We realize 2020 has been a challenging year for all and commend you for continuing to provide quality nursing care to our participants. This letter is to update you on a change regarding home nursing agency in-person supervisory visits.

UIC's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) partnered with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to send out a provider notice dated April 27, 2020. This notice outlined exceptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic stretches on, we understand that supervisory visits are essential for the long-term health and safety of our Home Care participants. We are now asking your agency to resume in-person supervisory visits by Nov. 10, 2020.

As you know, the supervisory visits take place every 60 days. Please work with the participants/families on your caseload to resume these in-person visits. We ask that you take appropriate steps to minimize any risk for Home Care participants and their families.

Precautionary steps include:

- Complete a pre-assessment on the phone or other electronic means before the home visit. This step will reduce your time in the home.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and practice good hand hygiene.
- Triage the order of your home visits and possibly limit visits to a small amount each day.

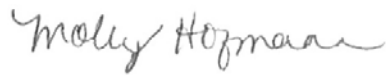
We can expect some participant families will resist in-person visits. Please document this resistance and let your DSCC Home Care Quality Improvement (HCQI) liaison know the participant and reason behind the refusal. We must document this information to be able to determine next steps with HFS. We know that some of you can perform telehealth visits while others cannot. You can discuss this option with the families/participants who resist in-person supervisory visits.

For those participants with nurses who are also their legally responsible adult (LRA), the in-person supervisory visits are mandatory. There is no option to decline them. These visits are particularly important to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants.

Most of you took our poll and indicated that you do not need guidance to resume these in-person visits. If you would like guidance, support or assistance, please reach out to your agency's DSCC HCQI liaison.

Again, thank you for all you do and your continued devotion to all Home Care participants and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Hofmann".

Molly Hofmann, APRN, PCNS-BS
Associate Director of DSCC Care Coordination