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HCR 5

This bill is a House Concurrent Resolution that will strike three wound rules related to people residing in an Assisted Living facility. We ask for your approval of HCR 5.

These three lines of rules should be stricken from the DHW rules for several reasons:

1. Residents who reside in Residential- Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) are much different than those who lived in ALFs when these rules were first implemented nearly 20 years ago. Consumers do not want to be told they have to leave their home because of one of these rules. Some diabetic wounds may never heal. It is tragic to discharge a resident away from their spouse because their condition does not meet one of these stringent rules. Some end-of-life wounds are not preventable.
2. The amount of care provided by Home Health and Hospice agencies in ALFs has grown dramatically as well. We believe that an outside agency can provide excellent wound care to residents with wounds at a lower cost to Idaho. Medicare pays for Home Health and Hospice. Discharging a resident from an ALF to a SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility), because of one of these three rules, is not always possible as many SNFs are not admitting new residents right now because of staffing shortages.
3. It is estimated that no more than 5% of residents in ALFs develop wounds. They can develop the same kind of wounds that can develop at home. ALFs are a "Home and Community Based" setting. Wounds that occur most commonly at home and at an ALF include - pressure, skin tears, diabetic, cancer wounds and end of life skin breakdown. We would never tolerate a rule that required a resident to leave their home and be admitted to a SNF because they had an open sore. Resident rights are an important part of health care. These rules limit a resident's choice of where they want to receive care.
4. Many rules still exist that protect the health of residents, such as:
 - a. The facility must ensure a licensed nurse is available to meet the needs of the residents who are assessed to require nursing care; (this appears directly after the rules we would like to delete.)
 - b. Residents must be free from inadequate care.

- c. The facility must be adequately staffed, and the staff must be adequately trained to care for the residents admitted or retained and there must be adequate personnel to properly care for the number and type of residents residing at the facility;
5. IHCA has already scheduled extensive training on April 28th to ALFs about preventing and healing wounds. We are including the Home Health and Hospice agencies who will provide much of the wound care in ALFs.