**STATE OF WASHINGTON**
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**
***Aging and Long-Term Support Administration***
***PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600***

May 2, 2015

**ALTSA: NH #2015-016**
**THE HEALTH HOME PROGRAM AND**
**RESIDENT ACCESS TO HEALTH HOME CARE COORDINATORS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

You may have recently been contacted by individuals identified as Care Coordinators with the Health Home Program, who have requested access to residents. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the role and authority of Care Coordinators.

The Health Home Program was created by the federal Affordable Care Act. It allows states to provide Health Home services, including care coordination and comprehensive care management to individuals who are eligible for (a) Medicaid or (b) both Medicare and Medicaid. The purpose of Health Home program service is to improve outcomes, reduce future health care costs, and improve the experience of care.

Care Coordinators assist these individuals in coordinating medical care, long-term services and supports, and behavioral health services. These services and supports are provided by organizations that are approved, by the Health Care Authority and Department of Social and Health Services, to participate in the Health Home Program as "Lead Organizations." Lead Organizations participate in the Health Home Program by contracting with Care Coordination Organizations.

Some nursing home residents are eligible for the Health Home program. The Care Coordinators assigned to these residents will be visiting residents at the facility to develop and work on the resident's individualized health goals. The Care Coordinator is considered a member of the resident health care team and is also a contracted service provider for the State of Washington. The resident has the right to visitation with a Care Coordinator and a nursing home must provide a Care Coordinator with access to the resident (WAC 388-97-0520).

For more information about the Washington Health Home Program, you can visit the Health Care Authority website at:
http://hca.wa.gov/billers-providers/programs-and-services/health-homes

For more information regarding federal and state regulations involving visits from representatives of the state and advocates, please review: 42 CFR 483.10 (j); 42 CFR 483.10 (g)(2); RCW 74.42.040; and WAC 388-97-0520

As always, thank you for your continued commitment to Nursing Home Residents. If you have any questions, you may contact your local Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Carl I. Walters II., Director
Residential Care Services

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Office of Service Integration, BHSIA