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Subject: Home Health Essential Services

Dear Providers,

Questions are arising about what is to be considered an “essential” vs. “not essential” home care service. The decision needs to be based on the current needs of the client. I would expect administration and clinicians to work together on this decision. **The goal is to get client’s basic needs met while keeping clients and staff safe.**

Guidance will be evolving, and we will get that guidance out to you, but, the crux of the decision of whether a service is essential or not remains with the agencies. -

As described in the [Vermont Department of Health Guidance for Home-Based Service Delivery](#), the current priority is ensuring that “essential” home-based services continue. ***This includes skilled home care services.*** “Essential” home care services are those that assure the health and safety of an individual. For example:

- Medication management
- Wound care
- RN and therapies for acute post-op care and monitoring and education

*All **non-essential** home-based services should be suspended if alternative remote delivery methods are not available. For example, regular, non-essential case management/service coordination check-ins should happen by phone or other remote methods such as Facetime or Skype.*

Please refer to the [DAIL memo specific to long-term services and supports](#) for additional programmatic guidance for Choices for Care services.

Up to date information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found at:

<https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information>

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Take care, and we all know you are doing your best.

Suzanne

Suzanne Leavitt, RN MS

State Survey Agency Director