



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

**DATE:** August 26, 2011

**TO:** General Hospital, Nursing Facility, and Skilled Nursing Facility Providers

**FROM:** DHS, Mental Health and Disability Services Division (MHDS)  
DHS, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Level I Screening Process for Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRR)

At the PASRR training sessions for hospital and nursing facility providers that were held on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, concerns were voiced by providers about the unavailability of the IME to provide Level I screenings during night and weekend hours. Of the highest concern was the potential for increasing hospital lengths of stay while persons waited for a Level I screening to be done during normal weekday business hours.

The department has considered these concerns and has chosen to pursue a long-range solution that will utilize a web-based Level I screening system which will be available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Because implementation of this system will take several months, the current Level I process will remain largely as it is now until implementation of the new system is complete. Level II evaluations will be conducted by Ascend as indicated in the training sessions. However, during this interim period, the department will allow post-admission screenings to occur under certain circumstances.

Prior to September 1, 2011, the Department will be releasing detailed instructions on how these processes will work for the interim period. These instructions will be posted on the Ascend Iowa Division website at: <http://www.ascendami.com/pasrr/iowa/>.