

Date: September 29, 2026

To: General Acute Care Hospitals (GACHs),
Psychiatric Hospitals,
Psychiatric Health Facilities,
Veteran Hospitals,
Military Hospitals,
Medicaid-certified Skilled Nursing Facility Organizations (SNFs)

Subject: Transition from Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)
Letters to PASRR Reports

Purpose: This PASRR Information Notice (IN) informs stakeholders of the restructuring of PASRR communications. The documents historically referred to as PASRR letters such as No Need Letter, Exempted Hospital Discharge Letter, Need Letter, Categorical and Individualized Determination Letters were formally redesigned and reissued as PASRR Reports. This update aligns PASRR communications with system modernization efforts and improves readability, accessibility, and workflow consistency.

Executive Summary

Facilities and partners will now receive PASRR Reports in place of PASRR Letters. These reports contain the same federally required determinations and outcomes but follow a standardized report format that improves clarity, reduces formatting inconsistencies, and supports digital accessibility requirements. The PASRR process itself (i.e., Level 1 Screening, Level 2 Evaluation, and Determination) remains unchanged.

Background

42 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 483.100 483.138 require all individuals seeking admission to a Medicaid-certified NF to undergo PASRR screening to determine whether a serious mental illness (SMI), intellectual disability, developmental disability, or related conditions (ID/DD/RC) are present. Historically, PASRR determinations and resolutions were communicated through various “letters.” With the introduction of

standardized formatting, accessibility improvements, and operational system updates, DHCS is replacing these letters with consolidated PASRR Reports. This change is administrative only. Determinations and requirements remain the same.

The Reports will be updated in two stages with the first stage being completed on October 5, 2026, and a second deployment projection of early November.

New PASRR Report Types (formerly letters)

The new PASRR report format was developed to increase uniformity and support quick verification of PASRR case status by facility staff.

Report Naming Convention

Facility staff should become familiar with the naming convention of the reports. The names closely mirror the previous PASRR letters (e.g., *Exempted Hospital Discharge (EHD)*, *Categorical*, and *Determination Available* reports). These naming conventions help staff quickly identify the type of PASRR outcome they are reviewing.

Transition

The new PASRR report format will provide facility staff with clear, direct information about each case's status and the specific actions staff need to take next.

The transition to the new reports will occur in two phases:

- **Phase 1 – October 5, 2026 Deployment:**
Introduction of the following reports: No Need, EHD, Need, No SMI, Attempt, and Categorical.
- **Phase 2 – Projected November 2026 Deployment:**
Release of the Individualized Determination Report and Reconsideration Report.

The new reports will also indicate when the ID/DD/RC process has been triggered. Please note that the PASRR system currently determines case status based solely on the SMI process. When the ID/DD/RC process is triggered, facilities must ensure the ID/DD/RC determination letter is completed before discharge or admission to a Medicaid certified SNF.

DHCS plans to update the system, so the ID/DD/RC process is reflected in the case close date. However, this enhancement requires significant planning due to system infrastructure complexity.

Status Field

The **Status** field indicates the current state of the PASRR case:

- **Complete** – The PASRR process is fully finished.
- **In Progress** – The PASRR process is currently underway.
- **Failed** – The PASRR process did not reach an acceptable conclusion, and further action may be required.

Next Steps Section

The **Next Steps** section outlines what facilities should do based on the Case Status.

- If the case is **Complete**, staff may prepare for discharge or proceed with admission requirements.
- If the case has a **Failed** status, staff must submit a new screening or follow the specified corrective action.

The following PASRR Report types correspond to previously issued PASRR letters.

Phase 1:

- **PASRR No Need Report** (formerly the *Notice of No Need Letter*): Indicates the individual does not meet criteria for a qualifying SMI. A Level II SMI evaluation is not required.

PASRR No Need Report

Name: First name Last name		
Start Date:	Close Date:	PASRR CID#
PASRR Status: COMPLETE		
Submitting Facility:		Submitting Facility Address:
May Need SMI Evaluation: No	May Need ID/DD/RC Evaluation: No	
Next Steps: No Level II Evaluation is required. Individual Does Not Meet Criteria for Serious Mental Illness (SMI). This individual may be discharged if appropriate.		

- **PASRR Exempted Hospital Discharge Report** (formerly the *Exempted Hospital Discharge Letter*): Indicates the individual qualifies for an EHD. The EHD is valid for 30 days following SNF admission. A Resident Review (RR) must be completed within 40 days of admission if the individual remains in the SNF past the 30 days.

PASRR Exempted Hospital Discharge Report

Name: First name Last name		
Start Date:	Close Date:	PASRR CID#
PASRR Status: COMPLETE		
Submitting Facility:		Submitting Facility Address:
May Need SMI Evaluation: No	May Need ID/DD/RC Evaluation: No	
Next Steps: An Exempted Hospital Discharge (EHD) has been identified. This individual can be discharged if appropriate. • If the individual remains in the skilled nursing facility (SNF) longer than 30 days from the admission day to the SNF, the SNF must resubmit a new Level I Screening as a Resident Review (RR) by the 31st day. • Failure to submit an RR will affect payment.		

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- **PASRR Need Report** (formerly the *Need Letter*): Indicates the individual meets criteria for suspected SMI and requires a Level II Evaluation. The Need Report includes the case status (In Progress) and outlines required next steps for facility staff, such as monitoring Level II processing and preparing for follow-up actions.

PASRR Need Report

Name: First name Last name		
Start Date:	Close Date: Pending	PASRR CID#
PASRR Status: IN PROGRESS		
Submitting Facility:		Submitting Facility Address:
May Need SMI Evaluation: Yes	May Need ID/DD/RC Evaluation: Yes/No	
Next Steps: This individual needs a SMI Evaluation, for which a Department of Health Care Services evaluator will contact within 48 hours, or the facility may call (888) 201-0614 or email CAPASRR@acentra.com. Evaluations involve visiting the individual and reviewing records. Upon completion of the evaluation, the facility will receive a Complete report which may include recommendations for Level of Care or specialized services for the individual.		

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- **PASRR SMI Attempt Report** (formerly the *Attempt Letter*): Indicates a Level II evaluation was attempted but failed due to a specified reason. **Pay attention to the Next Steps section!**

PASRR SMI ATTEMPT REPORT

Name: First name Last name		
Start Date:	Close Date:	PASRR CID#
PASRR Status: FAILED - <i>[One of the following options will populate when applicable]</i> • Discharged • Duplicate case • Facility evacuated • Isolation/Health and safety • Never admitted • No plan to discharge • Off Premises • Transferred out of facility • Unresponsive		
Submitting Facility:		Submitting Facility Address:
Next Steps: This resolution is not acceptable for discharge. If an acceptable resolution is needed, submit another Level I screening to restart the PASRR process. • Facilities discharging to a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF): Submit a PAS (Pre-Admission Screening). • SNF facilities needing review after admission: Submit a Resident Review (RR). Failure to submit an RR will affect payment.		

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- **PASRR No SMI Report** (formerly the *Attempt No SMI Letter*): Indicates that the individual's condition does not meet PASRR criteria for SMI. A Level II evaluation is not required.

PASRR NO SMI REPORT

Name: First name Last name		
Start Date:	Close Date:	PASRR CID#
PASRR Status: COMPLETE - <i>[One of the following options will populate when applicable]</i> • No diagnoses or suspected SMI • No functional limitations in the last 6 months; no intensive treatment in the last 2 years.		
Submitting Facility:		Submitting Facility Address:
Next Steps: The Level II Evaluation is Not Required – Individual Does Not Meet Criteria for Serious Mental Illness (SMI). <i>[One of the following options will populate when applicable]</i> • No diagnoses or suspected SMI. • No functional limitations in the last 6 months; no intensive treatment in the last 2 years. This individual may be discharged if appropriate.		

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- **PASRR Categorical Report** (formerly the *Categorical Letter*): Indicates the individual has a categorical condition preventing benefit from or participation in specialized mental health services. A Level II evaluation is not required.

PASRR CATEGORICAL REPORT

Name: First name Last name		
Start Date:	Close Date:	PASRR CID#
PASRR Status: COMPLETE – <i>[One of the following options will populate when applicable]</i> • Delirium • Projected Short Stay • Severe Physical Illness		
Submitting Facility:		Submitting Facility Address:
Next Steps: <i>[One of the following options will populate when applicable]</i> 1. No further SMI evaluation is required at this time, due to delirium. Once the delirium clears, the nursing facility must submit a new Level I Screening as a Resident Review (RR) to have the individual re-evaluated. • Failure to submit an RR will affect payment. 2. No further SMI evaluation is required at this time, due to a projected short stay. The individual has a condition expected to require less than 15-day stay at the nursing facility. If the individual requires a stay longer than 15 calendar days, the nursing facility must submit a new Level I Screening as a Resident Review (RR) to restart the PASRR process. • Failure to submit an RR will affect payment. 3. No further SMI evaluation is required at this time, due to a severe physical illness. No further evaluation is required at this time. Should the condition clear in the nursing facility, the facility needs to submit a Resident Review (RR) as soon as possible. This individual may be discharged if appropriate. If you disagree with this determination, you may request reconsideration via the PASRR System. • Failure to submit an RR will affect payment.		

Phase 2:

PASRR Individualized Determination Report (formerly the *Determination Letter*): Indicates the individual meets SMI criteria. A Level II Evaluation was completed, and the report outlines the recommended level of care and specialized services.

- **PASRR Reconsideration Report** (formerly the *Reconsideration Letter*): Issued when DHCS completes a reconsideration review. A reconsideration allows the

facility to request a second review by DHCS for specific case closures. The most common reason for a reconsideration request is a change in the recommended level of care.

Accessing PASRR Reports

Facilities can obtain reports from the Level 1 Cases List in the PASRR system. To download a report, select the 'View Report' button (previously labeled 'View Letter')." Reports are available based on the case status and resolution.

Operational Notes for Facilities

- Reports must be included with prior authorization submissions, as previously required for letters.
- SNFs must continue verifying PASRR completion prior to admission to maintain federal compliance.
- Facilities should incorporate the new PASRR Report formats into internal workflows and admission checklists.

References

For further guidance, please visit the [PASRR website](#).

For PASRR Information Notices, please visit the [PASRR Information Notices](#) page.

For training material, please visit the [PASRR Training](#) page.

For questions regarding this PASRR IN, please contact DHCS' PASRR program staff at ITServiceDesk@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Kyna Kemp, Chief
PASRR Section
Clinical Assurance Division
Department of Health Care Services