



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

In Re Licensure Violation:	:	CURTAILMENT OF ADMISSIONS
	:	AND READMISSIONS ORDER AND
SPRING HILLS POST ACUTE MATAWAN	:	DIRECTED PLAN OF
	:	CORRECTION
(NJ Facility ID# NJ556200)	:	
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	:	
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TO: Chad Giampino, Administrator  
Spring Hills Post Acute Matawan  
38 Freneau Avenue  
Matawan, New Jersey 07747  
cgiampino@meadowbrookrhc.com

The Health Care Facilities Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.) (the Act) provides a statutory scheme designed to ensure that all health care facilities are of the highest quality. Pursuant to the Act and N.J.A.C. 8:43E-1.1 et seq. (General Licensure Procedures and Standards Applicable to All Licensed Facilities), the Commissioner of Health is authorized to inspect all health care facilities and to enforce the Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:39-1.1 et seq.

**LICENSURE VIOLATIONS**

Staff from the Department's Health Facility, Survey and Field Operations (HFS&FO) unit were on-site at Spring Hills Post Acute Matawan (hereinafter "Spring Hills") on July 14, 2023, for a complaint investigation. The surveyors found that the facility failed to have infection control/prevention systems in place to prevent the spread of multi-drug resistant infections of Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)(bacteria resistant to nearly all antibiotics and difficult to remove from the environment) and Candida auris (a dangerous fungus that can be difficult to identify and treat). Facility administration reported to the surveyors that the facility is currently in an outbreak that began January 2023.

During the inspection, the surveyors found the following violations:

- Staff members failing to wear or improperly wearing required personal protective equipment when caring for residents;
- Staff members failing to use proper hand hygiene; and,

- Facility failure to follow its Transmission-Based (Isolation) Precautions policy, pursuant to which staff must wear a gown and gloves when caring for residents on contact precautions.

As a result of these violations, all residents have the potential of being exposed to CRAB and Candida auris, which are highly contagious.

### **CURTAILMENT OF ADMISSIONS AND READMISSIONS**

As you were notified by voicemail and e-mail on July 17, 2023, effective upon the facility's notification, the Department ordered the curtailment of new admissions and readmissions to Spring Hills. The facility census at the time of the order was 101.

This enforcement action was taken in accordance with the provisions set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:43E-2.4 (Plan of Correction), 3.1 (Enforcement Remedies Available) and 3.6 (Curtailement of Admissions) in response to serious violations observed by Department staff in Spring Hills during its on-site inspection.

The Department hereby orders the continuation of the curtailment of all admissions to Spring Hills, including readmissions.

Please be advised that N.J.A.C. 8:43E-3.4(a)(2) provides for a penalty of \$250 per day for each resident admitted to the facility in violation of this curtailment order.

### **DIRECTED PLAN OF CORRECTION**

The Commissioner of the Department of Health hereby directs the following plan of correction.

- a. The facility must retain the full-time, on-site services of an Administrator Consultant who is a New Jersey Licensed Nursing Home Administrator. The Administrator Consultant shall:
  1. Assess the facility's compliance with all applicable state licensing standards and identify areas of non-compliance;
  2. Oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of corrective action plans;
  3. Develop and implement compliance management systems at the facility;
  4. Collaborate with facility leadership to ensure that operating procedures, systems and standards align with compliance requirements;
  5. Ensure staff training needed to comply with applicable licensing standards; and,
  6. Take other actions as may be necessary to ensure identification of compliance issues and implementation of timely corrective measures.
- b. The facility must retain the full-time, on-site services of a Registered Nurse to begin providing services to the facility as a consultant Director of Nursing.
- c. The facility must retain the full-time, on-site services of a certified Infection Control Professional (ICP) to begin providing services to the facility as a consultant ICP.
- d. The facility must have its Assistant Director of Nursing, who is currently acting in the capacity of the Director of Nursing while the Director of Nursing is absent from the facility, complete the CMS 28-hour Universal Infection Prevention and Control Class.

- e. The facility must assign dedicated staff to care for infected residents on affected units to minimize staff movement throughout the facility (dedicated means that staff are assigned to care only for these residents during their shifts), or, in the case of staffing shortages, have the staff flow from non-infected residents to infected residents during the shift or from shift to shift, if staff work consecutive shifts.
- f. For the safety of visitors, the facility must:
  1. Encourage residents to limit in-person visitation while they are infectious.
  2. Counsel residents and their visitor(s) about the risks of an in-person visit.
  3. Encourage use of alternative mechanisms for resident and visitor interactions such as video-call applications on cell phones or tablets, when appropriate.
  4. Provide instruction, before visitors enter the resident's room, on hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, and use of PPE according to current facility policy.
  5. Instruct visitors to minimize their time spent in facility locations other than the resident's room.

The three consultants shall be approved in advance by the Department. The facility shall provide the names and resumes of the proposed consultants by sending them to [Kara.Morris@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Kara.Morris@doh.nj.gov), [Sophie.Xyloportas@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Sophie.Xyloportas@doh.nj.gov), [Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov) and [Gene.Rosenblum@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Gene.Rosenblum@doh.nj.gov) by close of business on July 21, 2023. The approved consultants shall be retained and begin work no later than the close of business on July 26, 2023. The consultants shall have no previous or current ties to the facility's principals, management and/or employers or other related individuals of any kind, including, but not limited to employment, business, or personal ties. The consultants shall be present in the facility for no less than 40 hours per week until further notice from the Department, with documented coverage of all shifts and weekends.

The facility should send weekly progress reports every Friday by 1:00 p.m. to [Kara.Morris@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Kara.Morris@doh.nj.gov) and [Sophie.Xyloportas@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Sophie.Xyloportas@doh.nj.gov). These weekly reports shall include timely status updates regarding:

1. Identified areas of non-compliance;
2. Corrective measures to address identified areas of non-compliance; and,
3. Status of corrective measures implementation.

In addition, the facility is directed to maintain timely communication with the Department, as may be required.

Department staff will monitor facility compliance with this order to confirm compliance with this order and Directed Plan of Correction and to determine whether corrective measures are implemented by the facility in a timely fashion. Failure to comply with these and any other applicable requirements, as set forth in pertinent rules and regulations, may result in the imposition of penalties.

The Curtailment of Admissions and Readmissions and Directed Plan of Correction shall remain in place until the facility is otherwise notified in writing by a representative of this Department.

#### **FORMAL HEARING**

Spring Hills is entitled to contest the curtailment, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-14, by requesting a formal hearing at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Spring Hills may request a hearing to challenge any or all of the following: the factual survey findings and/or the curtailment. Spring Hills must advise this Department within 30 days of the date of this letter if it requests an OAL hearing regarding the curtailment.

Please forward your OAL hearing request to:

Attention: OAL Hearing Requests  
Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance, New Jersey Department of Health  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0360

Corporations are not permitted to represent themselves in OAL proceedings. Therefore, if Spring Hills is owned by a corporation, representation by counsel is required. In the event of an OAL hearing regarding the curtailment, Spring Hills is further required to submit a written response to each and every charge as specified in this notice, which shall accompany its written request for a hearing.

Failure to submit a written request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of this notice will render this a final agency decision. The final agency order shall thereafter have the same effect as a judgment of the court. The Department also reserves the right to pursue all other remedies available by law.

Due to the emergent situation and the immediate and serious risk of harm posed to the residents, the Department will not hold the curtailment in abeyance during any appeal of the curtailment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions concerning the Curtailement of Admissions and Readmissions Order or Directed Plan of Correction, please contact Lisa King, Office of Program Compliance, at [Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov).

Sincerely,



Gene Rosenblum, Director  
Office of Program Compliance  
Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

DATED: July 19, 2023  
E-MAIL  
Control #X23029

- C. Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board  
Frank Skrajewski, Health Facilities Evaluation And Licensing  
Pamela Lebak, Health Facility Survey and Field Operations  
Kara Morris, Health Facility Survey and Field Operations  
Carol Hamill, Health Facility Survey and Field Operations  
Sophie Xyloportas, Health Facility Survey and Field Operations  
Laurie Brewer, New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman