CMS Issues COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers
On April 10, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

x All orders, including verbal orders, must be dated, timed, and authenticated promptly by the
ordering practitioner or by another practitioner who is responsible for the care of the patient. x Hospitals may use pre-printed and electronic standing orders, order sets, and protocols for
patient orders. x Although the regulation requires that medication administration be based on a written, signed
order, this does not preclude the CAH from using verbal orders. A practitioner responsible
for the care of the patient must authenticate the order in writing as soon as possible after the
fact.
Discharge Planning for Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
CMS is waiving the requirement to provide detailed information regarding discharge planning,
described below: x The hospital, psychiatric hospital, and CAH must assist patients, their families, or the patient’s
representative in selecting a post-acute care provider by using and sharing data that includes,
but is not limited to, home health agency (HHA), skilled nursing facility (SNF), inpatient
rehabilitation facility (IRF), and long-term care hospital (LTCH) quality measures and resource
use measures. x The hospital must ensure that the post-acute care data on quality measures and resource use
measures is relevant and applicable to the patient’s goals of care and treatment preferences. x CMS is maintaining the discharge planning requirements that ensure a patient is discharged to
an appropriate setting with the necessary medical information and goals of care.
CMS is waiving all the requirements related to post-acute care services so as to expedite the safe