



For Immediate Release

San Mateo County Health and the Health Plan of San Mateo Announce Centers of Excellence Program for Skilled Nursing Facilities

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San Mateo, Calif. – April 21, 2020 – In an effort to proactively coordinate care for residents during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, San Mateo County Health and key partners in our local healthcare sector announce the designation of three Skilled Nursing Facilities as Centers of Excellence. These facilities were identified for their high standards of patient care and expertise with infection control.

The initial three facilities are **Pacifica Nursing & Rehab Center** in Pacifica, specific sections of **Seton Medical Center** in Daly City, and **St. Francis Convalescent Pavilion** in Daly City. Based upon anticipated need, San Mateo County Health may name up to two additional facilities in the near future. These Centers of Excellence will treat COVID-19 positive patients discharged from local hospitals, as well as patients from community settings who have COVID-19 and require a higher level of care.

In San Mateo County, skilled nursing facilities provide care for an estimated 1,600 adults. These facilities are licensed by the California Department of Public Health, and many of the patients are insured by public health insurance through the Health Plan of San Mateo. Through this coordinated approach involving County Health, the Health Plan of San Mateo and local hospitals in San Mateo County, the local healthcare system entities together recognize the designated facilities' ability to safely treat COVID-19 positive patients and continue to ensure the safety of all patients and staff. County Health will work closely with these facilities to ensure they have the guidance and technical assistance necessary to continually adapt to the clinical

and operational challenges of assuring safe and effective care and to prevent spread of COVID-19, as well as to have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the safety of staff and patients.

“On behalf of the Hospital Consortium Board of Directors, we are grateful to the skilled nursing facility partners who are enabling excellent care to COVID-19 positive patients as part of a collaborative San Mateo County approach,” said Dr. CJ Kunnappilly, Chair, Hospital Consortium of San Mateo County and CEO of San Mateo Medical Center. “This is a time of unprecedented challenge for all sectors of our community and the healthcare community is stronger through this coordinated approach to assuring that every resident can get the right care in the right setting while we all prioritize protection of the public’s health.”

The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM), which serves over 100,000 members who qualify for Medi-Cal coverage, including members who also qualify for Medicare coverage through CareAdvantage CalMediConnect, is supporting this effort by offering a financial incentive to Center of Excellence facilities for Health Plan of San Mateo members.

As of April 21, 2020, San Mateo County had 935 reported cases of COVID-19 and 28 related deaths reported as of April 17. For more information, please visit the San Mateo County Health website at smchealth.org/coronavirus.

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