



London N. Breed  
Mayor

Health Commission

### Information Regarding the Proposed Amendments to the Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) Governing Body Bylaws

- LHH is currently awaiting an acute unit licensing survey, which could occur at any time. Governing body bylaws are a requirement for acute facilities; the Governing Body Bylaws are not a requirement for skilled nursing facilities, so the process to amend the LHH Governing Body Bylaws was not necessary for the Medi-Cal and Medicare recertification processes.
- The amendments contained in the draft Governing Body Bylaws reflect current practice at LHH and are not an indication of sudden change of practice for the type or length of care that is or will be provided at Laguna Honda.
- The LHH Governing Body Bylaws were last revised in 2012. The proposed amendments are intended to reflect current practice and to align with regulatory requirements.
- LHH is licensed as an acute hospital (11 acute beds) with distinct part skilled nursing beds. The acute unit at LHH is only used for treating LHH residents. The benefit of having an acute unit at LHH means that residents needing some acute services can be treated onsite versus being transferred to a hospital. The inclusion of the acute beds also means that the reimbursement rate for all of LHH's beds (acute and skilled nursing) are reimbursed at a significantly higher level per day.
- Public comments submitted to the Health Commission regarding the LHH Governing Body Bylaws state concern that the removal of the term "Long Term Care" from the document indicates that the facility will only be providing short term care. There is also concern that the Health Commission is changing the LHH Vision statement as part of the passage of this document.
- The LHH Values, Mission and Vision Statement, policy 01-00 was revised in 2016 to state, the vision of Laguna Honda Hospital is, "Building healthier lives as the leader in post-acute care." This vision statement can be seen in the attached policy and in subsequent LHH Annual reports since that year.
- The term "post-acute" is inclusive of long-term care services and does not include any intended changes to the length of service provision at Laguna Honda Hospital. Per the American Hospital Association: Post-acute care settings include long-term care hospitals (LTCHs), inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs), skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and home health agencies.
- There is also concern by some in the community that the term post-acute indicates that admissions to LHH must come from acute hospitals, which would eliminate admissions directly from the community and/or home. Earlier this year, the Health Commission approved LHH policy 20-01 "Admission to Laguna Honda Acute and SNF Services and

Relocation Between Laguna Honda SNF Units.” This policy clearly outlines 5 priority groups for admission to the facility.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents who were involuntarily transferred and meet criteria for care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Persons not in a medical facility (home) who need skilled nursing and/or rehab services</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients at a San Francisco Health Network facility who need skilled nursing and/or rehab services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Persons not in a medical facility (home) who are receiving skilled nursing and/or rehab services who are adequately cared for but might be better served in a facility</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients at a non-San Francisco Health Network facility needing skilled nursing and/or rehab services</li> </ul>

Any changes to admissions practices would have to be approved by the Health Commission through change to this policy.

- The Health Commission’s consideration at their 12/3/24 meeting of the proposed amendments to the LHH Governing Bylaws is not intended to change the vision or admissions policy, nor change the length of service provision for any LHH residents.
- The Health Commission may consider approval of the proposed amendments today to ensure that Laguna Honda Hospital is adequately prepared to pass the acute unit licensing survey. The Commissioners may request that the document be brought back at the December 17, 2024 or January 6, 2025 full Health Commission meeting with a revised definition of the term “post-acute” to specify that it includes long term care, skilled nursing care, and rehabilitation services.