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Absentee Voting for Hospitalized Patients

1 message


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To: All Ascension Wisconsin Associates

From: Reginald Newson, Vice President, Government and Community Services and Chief Advocacy Officer, Ascension Wisconsin 

cc: Bernie Sherry, Senior Vice President, Ascension and Ministry Market Executive, Ascension Wisconsin
Monica Hilt, Chief Operating Officer, Ascension Wisconsin
Gregory Brusko, DO, MMM, FACOS, Chief Clinical Officer, Ascension Wisconsin
Lisa Benson, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Ascension Wisconsin
Heather Schimmers, Chief Nursing Officer, Ascension Wisconsin
Karen Lauer, Vice President, Care Management, Ascension Wisconsin
Elizabeth Cliffe, Director, Government Relations and Advocacy, Ascension Wisconsin

Date: October 29, 2020

Subject: Absentee Voting for Hospitalized Patients

This message is being shared today with all Ascension Wisconsin associates.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

As the November elections approach, patients who are hospitalized (or their family members) may request additional information about how they may vote. The 2020 elections will take place on Tuesday, November 3. Patients who wish to vote will need to follow an absentee ballot process. Ascension Wisconsin associates may provide information as outlined below about how to obtain absentee ballots if such information is requested by the patient; however, associates should not act on behalf of or as the agent of a patient.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Cliffe, Director, Government Relations and Advocacy, Ascension Wisconsin, at elizabeth.cliffe@ascension.org.

PROCESS FOR REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Patients hospitalized between now and November 3 may be eligible to vote using an absentee ballot process. Ascension Wisconsin associates should only provide information about the Absentee Ballot process if a patient requests it of them. Once a patient has requested the information, you can share with the patient or caregiver the following steps the voter must take as outlined by the **Wisconsin Election Commission**. Access the **full hospitalized voter guide** from the Wisconsin Elections Commission for easy reference.

Patients and families can access the guide online via: **I am in the hospital and want to vote absentee**. Please share the full guide from the Elections Commission with patients and families. The application can be accessed at: **Vote Absentee**. Patients and families can also find information about their local municipal clerk on that page. Please note that if the patient is not registered to vote, additional steps will be required.

Patients who would like to vote should select a person (called an "Agent") to help them request and receive an absentee ballot. Ascension Wisconsin associates should not serve as an Agent for a patient.

The Agent must take the Application to the municipal clerk where the patient lives (not where the hospital is located), along with a copy of or the original photo ID for the patient. Additional information about photo identification can be found at www.bringit.wi.gov. After the ballot is completed by the patient, it must be delivered back to the clerk where the patient lives by 8 p.m. on Election Day. If the ballot is submitted via mail, it must be received by the clerk by Election Day.

QUESTIONS?

For additional information or clarification, patients should be instructed to reach out to the Wisconsin Election Commission at 608.266.8005.

Thank you.



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