

# **Scandinavian Home Skilled Nursing/Long-Term Care Facility Q&A**

**October 28, 2024 rev.**

## **1) Why is Scandinavian Home putting the license for its skilled nursing beds on hold and taking these nursing home beds out of service?**

Scandinavian Communities is taking this step due largely to the financial challenges of operating in the current healthcare landscape, primarily the inadequate reimbursement rates for Medicaid. **It's important to note that Scandinavian Communities will maintain its focus on assisted living.** This service has been at the core of our mission for over 90 years and **will not be affected by the change.** The decision to place beds on hold for the facility will ensure the long-term financial health and viability of our assisted living facility.

## **2) What is the timeline for nursing home residents to transition to a new facility? How will this process be communicated?**

The transition process will begin immediately. Residents will receive 30 days' prior notice before they will be required to relocate to another facility, but they may move sooner if they prefer. In our recent experience, relocation has occurred quickly. We expect the relocation process will take approximately 30 days to complete. Ensuring a smooth transition for our patients, their families and our valued employees is a top priority for us, and we will provide the necessary support.

## **3) What will happen to the skilled nursing facility? Will it be repurposed?**

The Board of Directors is already working with an architect to evaluate how best to redesign the property so that we may continue to provide excellent, compassionate and innovative care that will allow the people we serve to achieve optimal wellness and quality of life. It is possible that a portion of the facility will be converted to memory care assisted living units, although further study is required. It's important to note that while the license for the nursing home beds is on hold, Scandinavian Communities remains committed to maintaining the property in the best possible condition.

**4) Why will the Scandinavian Home assisted living facility remain open?**

Scandinavian Home Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Facility is licensed, regulated and operated independently of the assisted living facility. The assisted living facility is not subject to the same financial pressures as the skilled nursing/long-term care facility and will continue to operate as before.

**5) How will you ensure the appropriate handling of medical records and personal information of patients in a way that protects their privacy?**

All records will continue to be maintained in a way that strictly protects privacy. For skilled nursing residents who will be transferring, we will ensure the smooth transfer of medical records to their new facility. We will also continue to maintain possession of the medical records of all discharged residents for at least five years in order to ensure continuity.

**6) Where can I find more information about the transition process?**

Additional information about the transition process can be found at [www.ScandinavianCommunities.org](http://www.ScandinavianCommunities.org).

**7) How will you communicate with skilled nursing and long-term care facility residents?**

We understand the impact this change may have on residents and their families. With that in mind, we will work to ensure that everyone affected receives essential information as soon as it is available. We will also provide any necessary support throughout the process. Residents will be notified verbally and in writing regarding the facility's intent to place beds on hold on October 28, 2024, by the Scandinavian Communities team, 30 days in advance of when residents must move.

**8) How will families be informed?**

Immediately after notifying residents, Scandinavian Home will notify residents' families or next of kin, both verbally and in writing.

**9) What will happen to current Scandinavian Home skilled nursing/long-term care facility residents?**

In collaboration with stakeholders and representatives from key state and community agencies, Scandinavian Home Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing/long-term care Facility will ensure the safe, orderly, and clinically appropriate transfer and relocation of every resident. Facility staff, including management and the admissions director, will privately discuss the details of the transition with each resident and their family. They will then assist in responding to residents' needs and any issues that may arise due to the relocation. Working together with the state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, our staff will speak individually with each resident, or a responsible party, to determine their personal preference for placement. We will be requesting that each family identify three alternative facilities for their loved ones and have provided resources to make an informed choice.

**12) Will there be any changes for residents of the Scandinavian Home assisted living facility?**

Assisted Living Facility residents will not be affected by the changes at the Scandinavian Skilled Nursing/long-term care facility. We are reviewing skilled nursing home facilities to be our preferred provider for our assisted living residents that may need a short-term rehab stay in case of a hospitalization.

**13) Is there a plan to increase the number of residents at the assisted living facility?**

The Scandinavian Assisted Living Facility has vacancies and is currently accepting new residents. If a future decision is made to offer memory care assisted living, and licensing for that change is approved, those services will be provided in space previously occupied by the skilled nursing/long-term care facility. However, this will not impact the operation of the current assisted living facility.

**14) Do Medicaid residents need to reapply for Medicaid at their new location?**

No, residents do not need to reapply for Medicaid. Residents in the process of renewing their status, which is known as 'redetermination,' will continue to work with our staff to complete their redetermination, ensuring continuity of care.

**15) How will you communicate about this with staff?**

Scandinavian Home Management Staff will be notified in person and in writing on October 28, 2024. General staff will be notified in person and in writing immediately thereafter.

**16) What will happen to staff at the skilled nursing/long-term care facility? Will there be layoffs?**

Regrettably, there will be layoffs in all departments of the skilled nursing/long-term care facility. Scandinavian Communities will support the staff with any necessary documentation needed to secure employment at another facility. We are working to have a job fair with facilities that have openings, if feasible.

**17) What will happen to staff at the assisted living facility? Will there be layoffs?**

No layoffs are expected at the Scandinavian Assisted Living Facility.

**18) Can staff transition to the assisted living facility? If yes, how?**

At this time, there may be some per diem positions open in the assisted living facility.

**19) How will the home communicate with donors about these changes?**

Donors will receive a written communication from the Executive Director after an announcement is made to residents, families, and staff. The Executive Director, or her designee, will notify major donors of the changes in writing.