

PROPOSED CLOSURE PLAN
FOR WAREHAM HEALTHCARE
50 Indian Neck Road, Wareham, MA 02571

Dear Resident and other Interested Parties:

On March 30, 2021, Wareham Healthcare (“Wareham Healthcare” or the “Facility”) issued a Notice of Intent to Close the Facility located at 50 Indian Neck Road, Wareham, Massachusetts 02571. This is the Closure Plan referenced in that notice.

Background

On December 1, 2017, 50 Indian Neck Road Operator, LLC d/b/a Wareham Healthcare, a wholly owned affiliate of Next Step Healthcare LLC (“Next Step”), began leasing and operating the Facility. The expiration date of this lease was February 28, 2021. Ultimately the Facility’s landlord was not willing to renew the lease or sell the Facility and demanded that Next Step close the Facility. The landlord has agreed to extend the lease to provide sufficient time to complete the closure process.

Notice to Residents and other Interested Parties

Wareham Healthcare issued the Notice of Intent to Close on March 30, 2021. On that date, the Notice of Intent to Close was posted at the Facility and issued to residents by hand delivery, by First Class mail to their legal representative or designated contact on file and other interested parties as required by the applicable regulations, as set forth on the attached Notice List. The Facility will close on or about July 28, 2021.

Relocation Assistance

The Town of Wareham and the neighboring towns have a substantial supply of licensed long term care placements available. The Town of Wareham is home to one additional skilled nursing facility and the adjacent towns of Plymouth and Middleborough host an additional five skilled nursing facilities. A total of twenty-three skilled nursing facilities are located within fifteen miles of Wareham based on Medicare.gov data.

Wareham Healthcare will be in contact with representatives of these nearby skilled nursing facilities to seek information regarding available beds, particular specialties, and other pertinent information. Wareham Healthcare will collect written information from these other facilities and will make that information available in its common areas, and to each resident or their legal representative. Wareham Healthcare will accommodate planning communication between representatives of the nearby skilled nursing facilities and any resident or legal representative at their request in accordance with current COVID-19 protocols.

Wareham Healthcare and Next Step will work with the residents and their families to identify appropriate placements for all residents in a facility capable of meeting all of their needs, including the consideration of the resident's and family's choice of facility.

Throughout the closure process Wareham Healthcare will continue to comply with all guidelines issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to protect residents and employees from COVID-19. The Facility will continue to abide by visitation policies set forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Governor's Emergency Declaration and will allow for visitation in accordance with those policies when safe to do so. Prior to transfer or discharge, Wareham Healthcare will ensure that each resident has a face covering and is properly wearing it. The Facility will work with transportation providers to ensure that drivers are also adhering to COVID-19 precautions including wearing a face mask and properly disinfecting vehicle interiors between resident transports. The Facility will screen residents for COVID-19 symptoms throughout the transition period in accordance with current COVID-19 protocols and promptly test any symptomatic resident for COVID-19.

Resident Counseling

Wareham Healthcare will assist residents, their families, and representatives in preparing for closure of the facility, including the following steps. We will provide individual and group meetings to prepare the residents for the transfer options and process, including psychological preparation or counseling of each resident as necessary. We will consult with each resident or legal representative regarding placement options and the placement process being considered, and to obtain required consent.

Wareham Healthcare will hold an initial Family Meeting at the Facility (50 Indian Neck Road, Wareham, MA) on Tuesday March 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The Facility will also host a conference call on Thursday April 1 at 4:00 p.m. For the conference call, please dial (515) – 604-9563 and when prompted enter the meeting code - 950738#. Notice of these scheduled events is posted at the Facility and is being delivered to all designated Family/Resident Representatives. The Facility will monitor feedback from families and determine how best to schedule additional meetings – either by teleconference or an online audio and web conferencing platform (such as Zoom). In addition, the Facility will schedule individual meetings with any resident/family representative requesting one. At each family meeting, we will provide information on the closure process and steps the Facility will undertake to ensure the appropriate transfer or discharge of each resident.

Admissions and Readmissions

Until the Closure Plan is approved by the Department of Public Health, Wareham Healthcare will not freeze admissions, however, we will inform all prospective admissions that we have filed the Notice of Intent to Close. We will follow all applicable state and federal regulations related to residents who are admitted to hospital care, including applicable bed holds. We will continue to

readmit all hospitalized patients as required and will accommodate any resident who desires to transfer to another facility following hospitalization.

Medical Records Storage

Wareham Healthcare and Next Step will work together to assure the collection and proper storage of medical records occurs. Patient records for residents who transfer to another facility will be transferred to and maintained by that facility. Copies of all medical records will be provided to the destination facility at the time of transfer for all residents, and Wareham Healthcare will designate a contact person for communications with the destination facility regarding resident care and needs. Wareham Healthcare will collect, catalog and store all medical records upon closure of the Facility and have documents stored and available in compliance with applicable state retention periods. Next Step will manage this process, utilizing Iron Mountain in Boston, Massachusetts for paper records and Point Click Care for electronic health records.

Former Facility Residents and others legally entitled to a copy of a resident's record may obtain record copies by contacting Next Step Healthcare, 400 Trade Center, Suite 7950, Woburn, MA 01801, attn.: David Foley, telephone: (781) 404-3908.

Information and services for our Employees

Wareham Healthcare is committed to working with its employees to ease the difficulties associated with the transition by offering positions at other facilities to employees. Next Step has several affiliated facilities located in nearby towns. Employees that relocate to these affiliated facilities will be given credit for their years of employment with the Wareham facility. For employees who elect not to relocate to these affiliated facilities Next Step will attempt to help employees explore job opportunities at other facilities in the area including contacting the Massachusetts Dislocated Worker Center and the Massachusetts Career Center, enabling employees to take advantage of those services.

Employee meetings will be scheduled to communicate the closure plan and answer their related questions. Employees that are being offered employment at Next Step affiliated facilities will be provided a letter detailing their compensation and benefits at the new facility. Full time and part time employees will continue to be paid by Wareham Healthcare and receive their existing benefits through their date of relocation to another Next Step facility or for a minimum of sixty days from the date of this notice. We will continue to update employees as the plan unfolds and additional information is available. Employees may direct any questions or concerns to David Laplante, Facility Administrator or e-mail us at info@nextstephc.com.

Revisions to this Closure Plan

Wareham Healthcare may revise this Closure Plan to provide additional information in response to public comments, resident and family comments, and its ongoing communication with state agencies including the Department of Public Health.

Ongoing Communications

We will be working with the residents and their families, the employees, and with state agencies including the Department of Public Health throughout this process to assure the orderly transition of care for our residents. Information will be posted at the Facility on a regular basis. We will provide advance notice of meetings to be conducted with residents, their families and representatives to those persons and to the Resident Council.

Residents, their Families, and Representatives may contact the following for further information: David LaPlante, Facility Administrator at Wareham Healthcare, (508)-295-6264. You may also e-mail us at info@nextstephc.com.

Very truly yours,

William H. Stephan
Chief Financial Officer, 50 Indian Neck Road Operator, LLC d/b/a Wareham Healthcare and
Next Step Healthcare LLC

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