

Healthcare Electronic Notification System (HENS)

HENS allows Ohio hospitals and nursing facilities to obtain hospital exemptions and PAS determinations. HENS also allows nursing facilities to complete Resident Reviews. User guides and computer based training for HENS is available by pressing the "Help" button on the HENS website. To report any issues with the system, users may contact the Ohio Department of Aging helpdesk at ODA_ISD_HelpDesk@age.ohio.gov.

Effective 9/29/13, individuals who are being discharged from a psychiatric hospital or from the psychiatric unit in a hospital to a nursing facility are no longer exempt from pre-admission screening. You may not use a Hospital Exemption Notification for these individuals. Please complete and submit the PAS-ID screen, form 3622 using HENS.

What is HENS?

HENS stands for Healthcare Electronic Notification System. It is a web-based system for submitting hospital exemptions and PASRR requests electronically. The system became available 11/1/11.

How does one get access to HENS?

Each hospital and NF in the region is assigned a "HENS administrator" from the staff on-site. It is her or his responsibility to add or remove staff at their site to provide user rights to the HENS system; users only have access to the system that is designated to their hospital or NF. Once a person is added as a user, the HENS system sends 2 e-mails: one contains the User Name, the second contains the Password. Contact the Pre-Admission Review Department at COA at 513-345-8622 to add your Hospital or NF to the HENS system or to change the HENS administrator.

What are the benefits of using HENS?

HENS allows a submitted notification to be "sent" electronically to both the receiving NF and the PAA (COA) automatically. The NF can choose to print out the notification at that time or convert it into a text document that can be saved electronically. The notification is automatically downloaded into the PIMS computer system, which is used for PAS, LOC and PASSPORT in the state of Ohio. The hospital no longer needs to rely on facsimile technology, which is more time intensive and prone to error for the hospital and receiving NF. Further, the notification is available on-line.

HENS also ensures that required fields are completed by the submitter. The HENS system will not "allow" a notification to be saved into the system unless the major questions are answered and the MD/DO's signature is certified as being on file at the hospital. Incomplete fields in specific areas invalidate a Hospital Exemption, so HENS provides a safety net for the NF that accepts the individual by providing a valid temporary exemption to the PASRR process.

HENS hospital exemptions that show indications of Serious Mental Illness or Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities are automatically forwarded by the system to Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services and Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, respectively. This does not cause a delay to discharge plans. With paper Hospital Exemptions, the PAA had to fax hospital exemptions with SMI and/or MRDD to the state entities for demographic purposes only; HENS saves the PAA's resources by doing this automatically, if the SMI or MRDD questions are answered "yes."

Additional HENS information

For more information on using HENS, refer to the written user guides and video tutorials available for hospital and NF users at the HENS website: www.hens.age.ohio.gov. Log on to HENS Click on HELP on the menu bar. Select a user guide or computer based training. To report any issues with the HENS system, users may contact the Ohio Department of Aging at ODA_ISD_HelpDesk@age.ohio.gov.

