MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 24, 2014

TO: ADLS Providers
    Eric Weiss

FROM: Ronda Williams
      ADLS Program Manager

SUBJECT: Infectious or Contagious Disease Screening

Assistive Daily Living Services waiver requires Personal Attendants hired by provider agencies to meet the following qualification as per the ADLS waiver: “May not have an infectious or contagious disease or condition which results in a medical condition that is prolonged or potentially life-threatening.”

After discussion with the South Dakota Department of Health, it has been determined that the ADLS population and their settings are not a group at risk of TB exposure. Department of Health assesses risk in facilities, such as nursing homes and homeless shelters, and they have a different means of assessing for each type of facility based on the risk level and population.

With the population of ADLS participants living in their own homes, the risk assessment for facilities does not apply here. A reasonable policy recommended by Department of Health, at a minimum, would be to screen individuals using a series of 4 questions that are related to symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease at time of application for hire as a Personal Attendant. Non-licensed agency staff could complete the assessment with the individual. If any of the questions have a “yes” response, the applicant would need to see a physician to determine if the symptoms are the result of a contagious or infectious disease. If the doctor determines it is not a contagious or infectious disease, they would need to provide a doctor’s note stating there is no infectious disease; or if they had an infection and it is now treated, the doctor note would state they are no longer infectious and can be hired to perform duties of a Personal Attendant. As a result of a Dr. visit, if they are found to be diagnosed or strongly suspected of having TB, it must be reported to Kristin Rounds at South Dakota Department of Health 1-800-592-1861. Further testing
beyond the initial screening is necessary before it can be reported to the Department of Health.

An agency may choose to require a TB test in addition to the screening as a baseline and part of the hiring process. However, the screening tool is going to be required to assess for all infectious and contagious diseases and must be accessible in the Personal Attendant’s file.

Effective immediately, the provider agencies will need to begin using the Infectious and Contagious Disease Screening tool as part of the hiring process for Personal Attendants. This screening tool will be part of the annual review process and will fit the criteria of meeting the requirement of ensuring that the Personal Attendant does not have an infectious or contagious disease or condition which results in a medical condition that is prolonged or potentially life-threatening. Doctor notes will also need to be part of the Personal Attendant file.