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GOVERNOR

MARY C. MAYHEW
SECRETARY

March 20, 2020

Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Policy Transmittal: 2020-16

Applicable to the **2018-2023 SMMC contract benefits** for:

- Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) and MMA Specialty
- Long-Term Care (LTC)
- Dental

Re: COVID-19 State of Emergency: Temporary Expansion of Long-Term Care Provider Qualifications

It is the Agency for Health Care Administration’s (Agency) intention that managed care plans serving long-term care (LTC) enrollees have the maximum flexibility needed to ensure enrollees continue to receive all services necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare during the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) state of emergency. The Agency also recognizes the impact that the COVID-19 is having on certain LTC network providers, resulting in location closures and potential workforce shortages. The purpose of this policy transmittal is to inform the managed care plan of temporary expansions to the LTC provider qualifications and temporary modification to services during the state of emergency.

The managed care plan’s credentialing and recredentialing process must ensure that all long-term care (LTC) providers are appropriately qualified, as specified in Rule 59G-4.192, Florida Administrative Code and the participant directed option provider qualifications specified in the SMMC Contract. (Attachment II, Exhibit II-B, Section VIII.C.2.c.). Effectively immediately, the following service providers are temporarily eligible to render additional LTC services (as specified in the chart below and as authorized by the managed care plan) in the enrollee’s home during the state of emergency:

Temporary Expansion of LTC Service Providers	
LTC Covered Services	Eligible LTC Providers
Adult Companion	Adult Day Health Care Center
	Independent Registered Nurse
	Licensed Practical Nurse
	Older Americans Act (OAA) Provider
Attendant Care	Adult Day Health Care Center
	Community Care for the Elderly
	Health Care Service Pool
Behavior Management	Nurse Registry
Homemaker	Independent Registered Nurse
	Licensed Practical Nurse
Home Delivered Meals	Adult Day Health Care Center



Temporary Expansion of LTC Service Providers	
LTC Covered Services	Eligible LTC Providers
Intermittent and Skilled Nursing	Adult Day Health Care Center
	Center for Independent Living
	Community Care for the Elderly
	Health Care Service Pool
	Independent Registered Nurse
	Licensed Practical Nurse
	Nurse Registry
Medical Supplies and Equipment	Community Care for the Elderly
Medication Administration	Adult Day Health Care Center
	Participant Direction Option ¹ (see footnote)
Medication Management	Adult Day Health Care
	Participant Direction Option ² (see footnote)
Personal Care	Adult Day Health Care Center
	Health Care Service Pool
	Independent Registered Nurse
	Licensed Practical Nurse
	OAA Provider
Respite Care	Case Management Agency
	Health Care Service Pool
	Participant Direction Option
Transportation Services	Community Care for the Elderly
	Participant Direction Option

The managed care plan must ensure that providers are utilizing appropriately licensed staff to perform services within the individual's scope of practice (e.g., a home health aide cannot be substituted to perform a skilled nursing task). In all cases, the managed care plan must document in the enrollee's plan of care and case file the reason for the alteration of service providers or services during the state of emergency. The managed care plan may collect the enrollee's or authorized representative's signature on the updated care plan by mail or during the next face-to-face visit with the enrollee.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your contract manager at (850) 412-4004.

Sincerely,



Shevaun Harris
 Assistant Deputy Secretary for
 Medicaid Policy and Quality

SH/dvp

¹ Must be performed by MD, RN, LPN, PA within scope of practice

² Ibid.