

TO: Home Care Providers

SUBJECT: Increase in Personal Care Assistant Services, if Medically Indicated

EFFECTIVE: November 2, 1992

BACKGROUND: The New Jersey Medicaid program has allowed Personal Care medically require additional hours of PCA services. Therefore, additional hours of PCA services may be provided to the Medicaid recipient. Notification to the Medicaid District Office (MDO) is required to justify the need and reimbursement of additional hours of PCA services.

ACTION: Personal care assistant services are limited to a maximum of under the following certain criteria:

1. If the caregiver is employed, ill, frail, or temporarily absent from the home for sickness or family emergency and therefore unable to participate adequately in providing medically necessary care to ensure the safety or well-being of the recipient; or
2. If the recipient lives alone or has no caregiver and is in need of medically necessary care to ensure his/her safety and well-being; or
3. If the recipient is severely functionally limited and requires care to meet activities in daily living (ADL) needs, both in the morning and afternoon/evening; or
4. If the recipient's physical status/medical condition suddenly deteriorates, resulting in an increased need for personal care on a short-term basis until the stabilization of the health status.

These additional hours must be medically indicated, as specified in N.J.A.C. 10:60-2.2, and must not be a companion service.

The agency providing these increased services must notify the Medicaid District Office, either in writing or by telephone, about the recipient receiving more than 25 hours of PCA services. Failure to notify the MDO may result in non-

payment of the hours in excess of the 25 hours. Services provided to these recipients will be included by the MDO in the post-payment quality assurance reviews performed on home care services.

Please note: Unless otherwise indicated, Garden State Health Plan policies and procedures are not affected

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Office of Home Care Programs at (609) 588-2620.

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