



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: Home Health Agencies, Health Care Service Firms, and Health Maintenance Organizations– **For Action**

SUBJECT: Certified Homemaker-Home Health Aide (CHHA) Services provided by family members to Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries under the age of 21

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To announce that family members who are certified homemaker/home health aides can be employed by a home health agency or a health care service firm to provide personal care and homemaker services for family members under the age of twenty-one (21). PCA services must be supervised by a registered nurse.

BACKGROUND: P.L. 2023, Chapter 90 was approved July 3, 2023 allowing family members who have been homemaker-home health aide certified and employed by a home health agency or health care service firm to provide personal care services to family members under the age of twenty-one.

Family member is defined as a child, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, domestic partner or one partner in a civil union couple, or any other individual related by blood, and any other individual with a close association that is the equivalent of a family relationship. Family members may seek to be certified by the New Jersey Board of Nursing as a homemaker-home health aide and, after receiving that certification, may provide homemaker-home health aide services to the enrollee through a home health agency or health care service firm and under the direction of a registered nurse, provided that the enrollee is under 21 years of age and otherwise qualifies to receive those services under Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare.

For members not currently enrolled in managed care, the home health agency or health care service firm shall complete the current [State sanctioned PCA assessment tool](#) and submit the request to the Medical Assistance Customer Center (MACC) covering the county in which the member resides. For members enrolled in managed care, the agency shall request authorization from the member's MCO. The MCO shall determine the medically necessary number of PCA hours using the State sanctioned PCA assessment tool.

The family member will be expected to follow the same rules as any employee and shall meet any NJ FamilyCare documentation requirements. The homecare agency or health care service firm that will employ the family member will pay the costs of the CHHA certification. At no time shall a family member who becomes certified be required to repay or reimburse the home health agency or health care service firm for the cost of the certification.

The employing agency shall ensure registered nurse supervision of the services provided by the qualifying family member and shall ensure all required services are provided and properly documented. Services shall be billed utilizing the same billing codes required for services provided by non-family members. Family members may not be reimbursed for services provided prior to obtaining their certification.

If there are any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Gainwell Technologies Provider Services Unit at (800) 776-6334.

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