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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 34 No. 09 **August 2024**

TO: Hospitals, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) **– For Action**

SUBJECT: **Coverage of Acute Hospital Care at Home Services**

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To provide notice of NJ FamilyCare coverage of Hospital at Home services delivered by eligible NJ FamilyCare hospitals

BACKGROUND: P.L. 2023, c.163 (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-163 et seq.) provides for NJ FamilyCare coverage for acute care services provided to individuals outside of a hospital's licensed facility, within a private residence designated by that individual, in a program known as "Hospital at Home"

In order for a hospital to provide such services and be eligible for reimbursement, the hospital must have an active Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCaH) waiver approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and be authorized by the NJ Department of Health (DOH) to provide such services. DOH has issued a blanket waiver pursuant to the authority of N.J.A.C. 8:43G-2.8 to waive the requirement in N.J.A.C. 8:43G-2.5 that a licensed general hospital only provide services within the hospital's licensed space.

CMS created the federal AHCaH initiative in 2020 to enhance hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, hospitals continue to have the option to submit requests to CMS to waive 42 C.F.R §482.23(b) and (b)(1) of the Medicare Hospital Conditions of Participation requiring nursing services to be provided on premises 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the immediate availability of a registered nurse for care of any patient. The AHCaH initiative has been extended through December 31, 2024, under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.

The DOH Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing released updated guidance in December 2023 regarding the State's program for New Jersey hospitals participating in the federal AHCaH program. This newsletter only applies to Hospital at Home services as currently authorized at the federal and state level. If Congress further extends this program after 2024, providers should anticipate that new guidance may be issued.

ACTION: NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid (NJ FamilyCare) fee-for-service (FFS) program and its managed care partners shall provide reimbursement for Hospital at Home services for eligible hospital providers.

Eligible members

Hospital at Home services are available to all NJ FamilyCare members approved for acute care treatment in a home setting. Approval requires a face-to-face physician evaluation, provided in the emergency department or inpatient hospital setting, during which the provider determines the member can be safely treated in the home setting. Provision of Hospital at Home services must be consistent with the terms of AHCaH.

Process to become eligible to provide hospital at home services for NJ FamilyCare members

To receive NJ FamilyCare reimbursement for Hospital at Home services, eligible hospitals must:

1. Be enrolled in NJ FamilyCare as an acute care hospital, and

2. Provide documentation of an approved federal waiver request by CMS authorizing the hospital to participate in the AHCaH initiative and/or appear on the CMS list of "Approved Facilities/Systems for Acute Care Hospital at Home" found at https://qualitynet.cms.gov/acute-hospital-care-at-home/resources

Federal (CMS) Approval

Eligible hospitals must be authorized to participate in the federal AHCaH initiative. Waiver requests and further information may be found at the CMS website https://qualitynet.cms.gov/acute-hospital-care-at-home. CMS-approved hospitals must maintain compliance with the federal initiative's monitoring and quality requirements.

NJ DOH Approval

Eligible hospitals must also be approved by DOH to provide Hospital at Home services in NJ. For information, please see the NJ Department of Health's Guidance Memorandum issued on 12/6/23 "Participation in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Acute Hospital Care at Home Program."

Any questions on the NJ Department of Health process should be emailed to Jacqueline Chadwick, J.D. at the Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program at Jacqueline.Chadwick@doh.nj.gov.

Hospital at Home services for NJ FamilyCare members

NJ FamilyCare members cannot be provided Hospital at Home services without their prior consent to receive those services at their home.

Hospital at Home services must be provided in a manner compliant with the requirements of the federal Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative as described at https://qualitynet.cms.gov/acute-hospital-care-at-home.

NJ FamilyCare shall not utilize more stringent utilization management criteria for Hospital at Home services than when those services are delivered inside of a hospital's licensed facility.

Hospital at Home Billing Procedures

Within FFS and managed care, hospitals must use the following codes on the facility claim to receive reimbursement for Hospital at Home services:

- Revenue Code 0161: Hospital at Home, R&B/Hospital at Home
- Occurrence Span Code 82: Hospital at Home Care Dates

If the patient is admitted to the Hospital at Home program directly from the Emergency Department, the hospital will bill the entire admission using REV 0161 with the occurrence span code of 82. If the patient is transferred from an inpatient setting to the Hospital at Home program, the hospital will bill the appropriate Revenue Code for the inpatient days and the Revenue Code 0161 for the days they were in the Hospital at Home program. The Hospital at Home span should be billed along with the Occurrence Span Code of 82.

Hospital at Home Reimbursement

Within FFS, Hospital at Home services will be reimbursed at the same rate as when those services are delivered as an inpatient within the hospital's licensed facility.

Within managed care, Hospital at Home services will be reimbursed as established in the contract between the MCO and the in-network hospital.

Questions

If there are any questions regarding billing or enrollment related to this Newsletter, please contact the Gainwell Technologies Provider Services Unit at 1-800- 776-6334.

If you have any policy related questions, please contact the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) via email at MAHS.HAH@dhs.nj.gov.

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