



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 No. 48

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TO: Home Health Agencies and Homemaker Agencies - For Action
Providers of Case Management in Home and Community-Based
Services Waivers - For Action
Health Maintenance Organizations - For Information Only

SUBJECT: Change in Service Definition of Private Duty Nursing

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: Private Duty Nursing (PDN) is not a Medicaid State Plan service. Children participating in Medicaid's program of EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment) may receive EPSDT/PDN. Waiver/PDN is available only to beneficiaries enrolled in:

- ABC (Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children Under Division of Youth and Family Services Supervision)
- ACCAP (AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program)
- MW III (Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Blind or Disabled Children and Adults)

PURPOSE: The Division's recent review of Waiver/PDN indicates there are situations when a beneficiary in ABC, ACCAP or MW III must leave the home and be accompanied by a nurse in order to obtain a Medicaid-reimbursable service, such as a physician office visit. Therefore, current policy of limiting the PDN services to home setting only is being changed to cover these situations. These are interim guidelines which the Division will propose as amendments to the Home Care Services Manual (Chapter 60) and for adoption into State regulation.

ACTION: Effective immediately and subject to ABC, ACCAP, and MW III service cost caps, a case manager may request approval from the Medicaid District Office (MDO) to arrange medical transportation for obtaining a Medicaid-recognized treatment and to have a private duty nurse accompany a waiver beneficiary outside the home to obtain a Medicaid-reimbursable service.

Note: Medicaid will not approve use of a Waiver/PDN service outside the home for non-medical events. Social situations and other non-medical events remain the responsibility of the primary caregiver. In addition, due to safety concerns, the nurse will not be authorized to engage in non-medical activities while accompanying the client, including the operation of a motor vehicle.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau of Home and Community Services at 609-588-2620, or the MDO serving the county of residence of the beneficiary.

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