

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and
State Medicaid Director

MDL #22-02

MEDICAID DIRECTOR LETTER

TO: All Interested Parties

DATE: April 7, 2022

SUBJECT: **1915(c) Waiver Renewal: District of Columbia Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities Waiver (0334.R05.00)**

Purpose

The purpose of this Medicaid Director Letter (MDL) is to inform all interested parties that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has renewed the District of Columbia's Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities Waiver (EPD) for a five-year period, effective February 7, 2022. A formal transmittal detailing the relevant contents of the EPD waiver is forthcoming from the Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF). In the interim, this MDL highlights information regarding the total amount of personal care aide (PCA) services available to EPD Waiver enrollees.

Background

On October 1, 2020, CMS approved DHCF's EPD Waiver Amendment, which proposed to, in relevant part, limit PCA services to a total of 16 hours per day. On October 28, 2020, DHCF announced that it would be delaying the effective date of the various changes under the EPD waiver amendment that could result in service reductions or terminations due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), which were subsequently formalized through the CMS-approved 1915(c) Appendix K to the EPD Waiver.¹ Notably, DHCF delayed the provision delinking EPD and State Plan PCA hours, resulting in the limitation to 16 total maximum daily hours of PCA available to EPD waiver enrollees.

Discussion

On February 7, 2022, CMS approved DHCF's EPD Waiver for a five-year period. Upon further consideration and review, and in close consultation with CMS, DHCF revised the provision limiting the total maximum daily hours of PCA to 16 hours for all EPD waiver enrollees. Under the current approved waiver, enrollees will be able to cumulatively access 24 daily hours of PCA through a combination of 16 daily hours under the EPD waiver, and 8 daily hours under the State Plan, so long as such hours are medically necessary in accordance with the requirements set forth

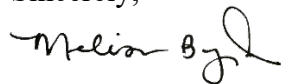
¹ See DHCF announcement regarding the proposed EPD Amendment Update, dated October 28, 2020, available at <https://dhcf.dc.gov/epd-waiver-amendment>

by law and policy, and duly determined upon assessment and consideration of all relevant evidence.

Contact

Please submit any feedback on the information described herein, by electronic mail or telephone to Katherine Rogers, Director, Long Term Care Administration, Department of Health Care Finance at Katherine.Rogers@dc.gov or 202.442.5818. DHCF looks forward to continued collaboration with beneficiaries, providers, and other stakeholders as we work to improve health outcomes for all District residents.

Sincerely,



Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Cc: DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
Medical Society of DC