



THE HSC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Health Services for Children
with Special Needs, Inc.

HSCSN Home Health Care Agency
Bulletin #1
September 10, 2021

TO: HSCSN Participating Home Health Agencies

FROM: Kiesha Smith, Director of Utilization Management for Health Services
For Children with Special Needs

RE: Changes to the Authorization Process for PCA & PDN due to requirements for
Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS)

Dear Providers:

This letter is to introduce a new process that is being put in place at HSCSN to do assessments for Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) with associated changes to the authorization process for personal care aide (PCA) and private-duty nursing (PDN) services.

Background

The Department of Health Care Finance gave notice of adoption of amendments to Section 989 (Long Term Care Services and Supports assessment process) of Chapter 9 (Medicaid Program); and Section 4201 (Eligibility) of Chapter 42 (Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Persons who are Elderly and Individuals with physical disabilities) of Title 29 (Public Welfare) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

This final rulemaking finalizes an important change to the Long Term Care Services and Supports (LTCSS) assessment process to align with the new standardized needs-based assessment tool utilized by the District, the InterRAI. All Medicaid beneficiaries receiving State Plan Personal Care Aide (PCA) and Private-Duty Nursing services should receive an annual face-to-face reassessment regardless of whether there has been a significant change in health status, thereby removing the option to submit provider attestations. The annual face-to-face reassessment requirement should improve HSCSN's ability to identify and address fraud and/or abuse and to ensure that enrollees continue to receive high quality care that appropriately addresses their needs and conforms to District requirements under the Medicaid State Plan.

LTSS Assessments

Liberty Healthcare will be conducting LTSS assessments on behalf of HSCSN and at the request of HSCSN. Referrals for services under LTSS should still be sent to UM at HSCSN.



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HSCSN can share the LTSS assessment with home health agencies. The independent assessment is being used in determination of eligibility for PCA & PDN and for determination of hours. These assessments will be shared with home health agencies upon request and with HSCSN care managers for inclusion in the care plan.

It is our intent that that all HSCSN enrollees that receive PCA or PDN will have an annual LTSS assessment. Currently, enrollees who are referred for initiation of PCA are being referred to Liberty Healthcare for LTSS assessment before a determination is made.

Changes to the Authorization Process for PCA and PDN

Effective 9/1/2021, HSCSN will authorize PCA for up to 120 days at a time once an LTSS assessment has been completed and hours have been determined. A signed Plan of Care for PCA services is valid for up to 1 year. However, the POC should be revised and reviewed by the prescriber whenever there is change in health status of the enrollee or a change in orders.

For PDN, authorizations will continue to be for 60 days and a signed POC is also valid for 60 days.

Home Health Care Agencies must submit re-authorization requests to Utilization Management at HSCSN by e-mail UM@hschealth.org or fax 202-721-7190 prior to the end date of an existing authorization. Each request should include the Plan of Care (POC), 14 distinct progress notes, and two distinct RN supervisory notes. All approved re-authorizations will be based on the results of the interResident Assessment Tool and clinical justification for home health services. Any increase in the frequency or amount of hours rendered will require a new prior authorization.

As a reminder, prior authorization is required for home care services. To prevent denials, HSCSN must receive all requests for re-authorization prior to the expiration of the previous authorization.

If there are questions about this change, please contact the UM Department at 202-721-7162 or e-mail UM@hschealth.org.

Kiesha Smith, RN
Director, Utilization Management



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For more information visit www.hscsnhealthplan.org.

For reasonable accommodations please call (202) 467-2737.

If you do not speak and/or read English, please call 202-467-2737 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. A representative will assist you. **English.**

Si no habla o lee inglés, llame al 202-467-2737 entre las 7:00 a.m. y las 5:30 p.m. Un representante se complacerá en asistirle. **Spanish.**

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Nếu bạn không nói và/hoặc đọc tiếng Anh, xin gọi 202-467-2737 từ 7 giờ 00 sáng đến 5 giờ 30 chiều. Sẽ có người đại diện giúp bạn. **Vietnamese.**

如果您不能講和/或不能閱讀英語，請在上午 7:00 到下午 5:30 之間給 (202) 467-2737 打電話，我們會有代表幫助您。 **Traditional Chinese.**

영어로 대화를 못하시거나 영어를 읽지 못하시는 경우, 오전 7시 00분에서 오후 5시 30분 사이에 (202) 467-2737번으로 전화해 주시기 바랍니다. 담당 직원이 도와드립니다. **Korean.**

Si vous ne parlez pas ou lisez l'anglais, s'il vous plaît appeler 202-467-2737 entre 7:00 du matin et 5:30 du soir. Un représentant vous aidera. **French.**



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

This program is funded in part by the Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health Care Finance.

HSCSN complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not
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October 2020