
CHAPTER 14: CHILDREN'S CHOICE

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OVERVIEW

The Children's Choice Waiver is a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services program that offers supplemental support to children with developmental disabilities who currently live at home with their families, or who will leave an institution to return home. This waiver is unique in that it allows recipients between the ages of birth through 18 years of age to receive a specified monetary amount annually in support services, including support coordination, within a service package individually designed for maximum flexibility. This waiver is an optional service that will be offered to as many children as funding allows. Families of children on the current Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RFSR) will choose to accept a Children's Choice Waiver offer or remain on the RFSR. This waiver is operated by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) under the authorization of the Bureau of Health Services Financing (BHSF). Both OCDD and BHSF are agencies within the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH).

Support services to be provided are specified in the Plan of Care (POC). The person-centered planning team, including support coordinators, service providers, family/guardians, and those who know the child best, develops this plan. The POC contains all services and activities involving the recipient, including non-waiver services as well as waiver support services. This waiver includes center-based respite, family support, environmental accessibility adaptations, support coordination and family training. These services are provided as a supplement to all other medically necessary Medicaid services. Recipients are to receive only those support services included in the POC and approved by the regional OCDD Waiver Supports and Services Office or Human Services Authority or District.

OCDD forwards notification that services are approved (prior authorized) to the direct service provider. The Medicaid data contractor is responsible for issuing prior and post authorization of waiver services based on the information included in the approved POC and entered into the service provider data collection system. The DHH fiscal intermediary maintains a computerized claims processing system, with an extensive system of edits and audits, for payment of claims to providers.

This chapter specifies the requirements for reimbursement for services provided through an approved waiver of the Title XIX regulations. This document is a combination of federal and state laws and DHH policy that provide support to such individuals.

These regulations are established to assure minimum compliance under the law, equity among those served, provision of authorized services, and proper fund disbursement. Should a conflict exist between chapter material and pertinent laws or regulations governing the Louisiana Medicaid Program, the latter will take precedence.

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This chapter is intended to give a Children's Choice provider the information needed to fulfill its vendor contract with the State of Louisiana, and is the basis for federal and state reviews of the program. Full implementation of these regulations is necessary for a provider to remain in compliance with federal and state laws and DHH rules.

OCDD is responsible for assuring provider compliance with waiver regulations. The BHSF Health Standards Section (HSS) determines compliance with state licensing requirements for support coordination, respite and family support services under the definition of this waiver.