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**CHAPTER 7: COMMUNITY CHOICES WAIVER**

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**SERVICE ACCESS AND AUTHORIZATION**

When funding is appropriated for a new Community Choices Waiver (CCW) opportunity or an existing opportunity is vacated, the individual who meets the criteria for one of the priority groups, or whose date is reached on the CCW Request for Services Registry (RFSR) shall receive a written notice indicating that a waiver opportunity is available. The applicant will receive a waiver offer packet that includes a CCW Services Decision Form and a Support Coordination Agency Freedom of Choice (FOC) and Release of Information form.

The applicant must complete and return the packet if interested in accepting the CCW opportunity and to determine if he/she meets the preliminary level of care criteria and/or any additional program requirements.

If the applicant meets the preliminary level of care and/or additional program requirements, he/she will be linked to a support coordination agency. A support coordinator will be assigned to conduct an in-home assessment with the applicant and inform him/her of all available services. The support coordinator shall also assist the applicant as needed with the financial eligibility process conducted by the Medicaid eligibility office.

Once it has been determined that the applicant meets the level of care requirements for the program, a second home visit is made to finalize the Plan of Care (POC). The following must be addressed in the POC:

- The types and number of services (including waiver and all other services) necessary to reasonably assure health and welfare and to maintain the recipient in the community;
- The individual cost of each waiver service; and
- The total cost of waiver services covered by the POC.

**Provider Selection**

The support coordinator must present the recipient with a list of providers who are enrolled in Medicaid to provide those services that have been identified on the POC. The support coordinator will have the recipient or responsible representative complete the provider FOC list. FOC will be offered initially and annually thereafter for each identified waiver service.

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The support coordinator is responsible for:

- Notifying the selected providers that they have been chosen by the recipient to provide the necessary services;
- Completing assessment and POCs;
- Obtaining an agreement from the selected provider(s) to provide services, (for ADHC, SC will also obtain completed assessment and/or plans written by the provider); and
- Forwarding the POC packet to the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) regional office or its designee for review and approval following the established protocol.

**NOTE: Authorization to provide service is always contingent upon having an approved POC or POC revision.**

### **Prior Authorization**

All services under CCW must be prior authorized. Prior authorization (PA) is the process to approve specific services for a Medicaid recipient by an enrolled Medicaid provider prior to service delivery and reimbursement. The purpose of PA is to validate the service requested as medically necessary and that it meets criteria for reimbursement. PA does not guarantee payment for the service as payment is contingent upon the passing of all edits contained within the claims payment process, the recipient's continued Medicaid eligibility, the provider's continued Medicaid eligibility, and the ongoing medical necessity for the service.

PA is performed by the Medicaid data contractor and is specific to a recipient, provider, service code, established quantity of units, and for specific dates of service.

PA revolves around the POC document, which means that only the service codes and units specified in the approved POC will be prior authorized. Services provided without a current PA are not eligible for reimbursement. There will be no exceptions made for reimbursement of services performed without a current PA.

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The provider is responsible for the following activities:

- Checking prior authorizations to verify that all prior authorizations for services match the approved services in the recipient's POC. Any mistakes must be immediately corrected;
- Verifying that services were documented as specified in Section 7.8 – Record Keeping and are within the approved service limits as identified in the recipient's POC prior to billing for the service;
- Verifying that services were delivered according to the recipient's approved POC prior to billing for the service;
- Proper use of the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system (if applicable);
- Inputting the correct date(s) of service, authorization numbers, provider number, and recipient number in the billing system;
- Billing only for the services that were delivered to the recipient and are approved in the recipient's POC;
- Reconciling all remittance advices issued by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) fiscal intermediary with each payment; and
- Checking billing records to ensure that the appropriate payment was received.

**NOTE: Providers have one-year timely filing billing requirement under Medicaid regulations. See Section 1.4, Timely Filing Guidelines in Chapter General Information and Administration of the Medicaid Services Manual at: <http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Providermanuals/manuals/GIA/GIA.pdf>**

### **Support Coordination**

Authorizations for support coordination service are issued by the data contractor for the POC year. A service unit is one month and each authorization covers a maximum of seven months, or seven service units. Typically, two PAs will be issued for a one-year POC. At the end of the month, after the support coordination agency fulfills the service requirements and inputs the required documentation in the case management database, the data contractor will release one service unit of the PA.

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**Transition Intensive Support Coordination**

Authorization for transition intensive support coordination (TISC) is issued upon receipt of the POC (provisional or initial).

A service unit is one month. The authorization includes a unit of service for each month with a maximum of six units of service per authorization. At the end of each month, after the support coordination agency fulfills the service requirements and inputs the required documentation in the case management database, the data contractor will release one service unit of the PA.

**NOTE: Authorization for services will not be issued retroactively unless a person leaving a facility is involved with special circumstances as determined and approved by OAAS.**

**Transition Services**

Authorization for transition services has a lifetime cap of \$1500. The authorization period is the effective date indicated on the POC or revision request through the POC end date. After the approved purchases are made, the POC (provisional, initial or revision) that includes the transition services, the receipts for the purchases and the "Transition Services Form (TSF)" are sent to the data contractor. (See Appendix B for a copy of this form.)

The data contractor issues and releases the PA to the support coordination agency upon receipt of complete and accurate information. The support coordination agency is responsible for reimbursing the purchaser (recipient, family, provider, own agency, etc.) upon receipt of reimbursement.

**Environmental Accessibility Adaptation**

When the data contractor receives a POC (provisional, initial or revision) that indicates a need for an environmental accessibility adaptation (EAA), an authorization is issued for a basic assessment to the assessor. After the data contractor receives documentation that the assessor has completed the assessment, the PA for approval services is released.

If the assessment indicates the need for an EAA, the data contractor will issue the following two authorizations upon receipt of the revised POC:

- An authorization for the final inspection and approval to the assessor; and
- An authorization for the installation/completion of the EAA to the provider/contractor.

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Upon receipt of documentation (either from the assessor or OAAS) that these tasks have been completed, the data contractor will release the PAs for payment.

**Personal Assistance Services**

An annual authorization of personal assistance services (PAS) is issued upon receipt of the POC (initial or revision). The authorization is based on the approved POC.

A unit of service is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
A.M./P.M.	Per visit
Traditional	15 minutes

Approved units of service are calculated on a weekly basis to the provider and must be used for the specified week.

PAs are released on a daily basis after services are provided and documented in the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system. Units of service approved for one week cannot be combined with units of service for another week. For PA purposes a week is defined as beginning at 12:00 am Sunday and ending at 11:59 pm the following Saturday. Payment for services is capped for each week.

Unused portions of the prior authorized allotment may not be saved or borrowed from one week for use in another week.

**NOTE: Recipients receiving self-directed PAS should refer to the *Community Choices Waiver Self-Direction Employer Handbook*. (See Appendix B for information on accessing this handbook.)**

**Adult Day Health Care**

ADHC service units are 15 minutes. ADHC services are assigned a PA number for the year. Approved units of service are issued on a quarterly basis. PAs are released after services are provided and documented in the EVV system. Units of service approved for one week cannot exceed established limits. For PA purposes, a week is defined as beginning at 12:00 am Sunday and ending at 11:59 pm the following Saturday. Payment for services is capped at 50 hours per week and no more than 10 hours per day.

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In the event that reimbursement is received without an approved PA, the amount paid is subject to recoupment.

**Caregiver Temporary Support**

Authorization for caregiver temporary support service is issued for no more than 30 calendar days or 29 overnight stays per POC year. Each PA is capped at 14 calendar days or 13 overnight stays and no contiguous PAs are issued.

A unit of service is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
In the home	15 minutes
Assisted Living Facility ; Nursing Facility; Respite Care Center (ALL overnight)	Daily
ADHC center (not overnight)	15 minutes (maximum of 40 units/day)

PAs are released for personal care attendant providers, ADHC centers and home health agencies after the service has been provided and documented in the EVV system.

Assisted living centers, nursing facilities and respite care centers use the Louisiana Service Reporting System (LaSRS) to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services. The provider may bill, using the proper PA, after services are delivered.

**Monitored In-Home Caregiving Services**

Authorization for monitored in-home caregiving (MIHC) services is issued upon receipt of the POC (initial, provisional, or revision).

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A service unit is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
MIHC (Level 1 and Level 2 services)	Per day
Intake and assessment	Per Service

This provider type uses LaSRS to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services.

The intake and assessment PA will be released once the MIHC Services Form is submitted to the data contractor by the support coordinator. “Per Day” units may be billed using the proper PA, after services are delivered.

**Assistive Devices and Medical Supplies**

Authorization for assistive devices and medical supplies will be issued upon receipt of the POC (initial, provisional, or revision).

A service unit is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
PERS Installation Telecare Installation	One Time Fee
PERS Maintenance Telecare Maintenance	Per Month
Medication Dispensing and Monitoring	Per Month
Equipment Rental and Repairs	Pay as Approved
Equipment Purchase Medical Supply Purchase Procurement	Per Service/Pay as Approved

PERS installation and monthly units of service use LaSRS to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services. The provider may bill, using the proper PA, after services are delivered.

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For all other “per month”, “per service” or “pay as approved” units, the prior authorization will be released for payment once the data contractor receives documentation from the support coordinator confirming the purchase/rental/repair/procurement. (Refer to Appendix B for the OAAS Assistive Devices and Medical Supplies Form.)

**Home Delivered Meals**

Authorization for home delivered meals is issued according to the POC. The PA must be for a minimum of four meals per week, up to a maximum of 14 meals per week, not to exceed the limit of two meals per day. A service unit is one meal.

This provider type uses LaSRS to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services. The provider may bill, using the proper PA, after services are delivered.

**Nursing Services**

A nursing service assessment and/or ongoing nursing services are authorized upon receipt of the POC (provisional, initial or revision).

A service unit is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
Assessment	Per Service
Nursing Care	Per Visit

Authorization is issued for no more than six months of service and in the amount indicated in the POC.

This provider type uses LaSRS to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services. The PA will be released for payment once the data contractor receives the Nursing/Therapy Payment Authorization Form from the support coordinator confirming the service/visit.

**Skilled Maintenance Therapy Services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Therapy)**

A skilled maintenance therapy assessment and/or ongoing therapy services are authorized upon receipt of the POC (provisional, initial or revision).



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A service unit is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
Evaluation Re-evaluation	Per Service
Therapy Home Care Training (Out-Patient)	Per Visit

Authorization is issued for no more than six months of service and in the amount indicated in the POC. The POC revision is based on the recommendations from the professional evaluation and as reflected on the CCW Nursing/Therapy Evaluation Form. (See Appendix B for link to this form.)

This provider type uses LaSRS to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services. The PA will be released for payment once the data contractor receives the Nursing/Therapy Payment Authorization Form from the support coordinator confirming the service/visit.

**Housing Transition or Crisis Intervention Services and Housing Stabilization Services**

Authorization for these Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) services is made upon receipt of the POC (initial, provisional, or revision).

A unit of service is:

Type of Delivery Method	Unit of Service
Housing Stabilization	Per 15 minutes (maximum of 72 units per POC year)
Housing Transition or Crisis Intervention	Per 15 minutes (maximum of 96 units per POC year)

These provider types use LaSRS to retrieve PAs, but do not utilize LaSRS to document the provision of services. The provider may bill, using the proper PA, after services are delivered.

**Post Authorization**

Some services require post authorization before the provider is able to bill for services rendered.

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Post authorization may occur either through EVV or through documentation submitted by the support coordinator as follows:

<b>EVV</b>	<b>Additional Documentation</b>
Personal Assistance Service (PAS)	Skilled Maintenance Therapies
Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)	Assistive Devices and Medical Supplies (excluding PERS)
Caregiver Temporary Support In-home	Nursing
Caregiver Temporary Support ADHC and center based (not overnight)	MIHC Intake and Assessment
	Transition Services
	Environmental Accessibility Adaptation

The data contractor checks the information reported against the prior authorized units of service. Once post authorization is granted, the provider may bill the LDH fiscal intermediary for the appropriate units of service.

Providers must use the correct PA number when filing claims for services rendered. Claims with the incorrect PA number will be denied.

**Changing Providers**

Recipients or their responsible representative must request any change in amount(s) of service/units to the support coordinator.

All requests for changes in providers require a new Freedom of Choice by the recipient or his/her responsible representative (Refer to 7.4-Recipient Rights and Responsibilities, Freedom of Choice of Providers, for details on “good cause” criteria and timelines.)

The support coordinator will provide the recipient with the current FOC provider list for his/her region. Once a new provider has been selected, the support coordinator will ensure the new provider is notified of the request. Depending on the type of services being provided, and with written consent from the recipient, both the transferring provider and the receiving provider share responsibility for ensuring the exchange of medical and program information which includes:

- Progress notes from the last six months, or if the recipient has received services from the provider for less than six months, all progress notes from date of admission;
- Written documentation of services provided, including monthly and quarterly

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progress summaries (if applicable);

- Current Individualized Service Plan, current assessments upon which the Individualized Service Plan is based (if applicable);
- Documentation of the amount of authorized services remaining in the POC including direct service case record documentation; and
- Documentation of exit interview.

The support coordinator will facilitate the transfer of the above referenced information to the receiving service provider and forward copies of the following to the new service provider:

- Most current POC;
- Current assessments on which the POC is based;
- Number of services used in the calendar year; and
- All other waiver documents necessary for the new provider to begin providing services.

**NOTE: The new provider must bear the cost of copying, which cannot exceed the community's competitive copying rate.**

**Prior Authorization for New Providers**

The support coordinator will complete a POC revision that includes the start date for the new provider and the end date for the transferring provider. A new PA will be issued to the new provider with an effective starting date as indicated on the POC revision. The transferring provider's PA number will expire on the end date as indicated on the POC revision.

**Changing Support Coordination Agency**

Recipient(s) may request a change in Support Coordination Agency through the support coordinator or by contacting OAAS regional office. (Refer to 7.4-Recipient Rights and Responsibilities, Freedom of Choice of Providers, for details on "good cause" criteria and timelines.)

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After the recipient has selected and been linked by the data contractor to a new support coordination agency, the new agency must inform the transferring agency and complete the Transfer of Records form. The new agency must obtain the case record and authorized signature from the transferring agency.

Upon receipt of the completed form, the transferring agency must have provided copies of the following information to the new agency:

- Most current POC;
- Current assessments on which the POC is based;
- Number of services used in the POC year; and
- Most recent six months of Support Coordination Documentation (SCD).

**NOTE:** The new support coordination agency must bear the cost of copying which cannot exceed the community's competitive copying rate. If the new agency does not receive the information in a timely fashion, the appropriate OAAS regional office should be contacted for assistance.

The transferring support coordination agency must provide services up to the transfer of records and is eligible to bill for support coordination services for the month in which the dated notification is received (transfer of records) by the receiving agency. In the month the transfer occurs, the receiving agency must begin services within three days after the transfer of records and is eligible to bill for services the first full month after the transfer of records. Immediately after the transfer of records, the receiving agency must submit the required documentation to the data contractor to obtain prior authorization.

**Prior Authorization for New Support Coordination Agency**

A new PA number will be issued to the new support coordination agency with an effective starting date as the first day of the first full calendar month following the date of the transfer of the records. The transferring agency's PA number will expire on the date of the transfer of the records.

OAAS or its designee will not backdate the new PA period to the first day of the calendar month in which the FOC and transfer of records are completed. If the new support coordination agency receives the records and admits a recipient in the middle of a month, they cannot bill for services until the first day of the next month.