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**CHAPTER 45: PEDIATRIC DAY HEALTH CARE**

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**RECIPIENT CRITERIA**

In order to qualify for pediatric day health care (PDHC) services, a recipient must meet all of the following criteria. The recipient must:

- Be Louisiana Medicaid eligible;
- Be age birth up to 21 years of age;
- Require ongoing skilled medical care or skilled nursing care by a knowledgeable or experienced licensed professional registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN);
- Have a medically complex condition(s) which requires frequent, specialized therapeutic interventions and close nursing supervision. Interventions are those medical procedures provided to sustain and maintain health and life. Interventions required and performed by individuals other than the recipient's personal care giver would require the skilled care provided by professionals at PDHC centers. Examples of medically necessary interventions include, but are not limited to:
  - Suctioning using sterile technique;
  - Provision of care to a ventilator dependent and/or oxygen dependent recipient to maintain patient airway and adequate oxygen saturation, inclusive of physician consultation as needed;
  - Monitoring of blood pressure and/or pulse oximetry level in order to maintain stable health condition and provide medical provisions through physician consultation;

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- Maintenance and interventions for technology dependent recipients who require such life-sustaining equipment; or
- Complex medication regimen involving, and not limited to, frequent change in dose, route, and frequency of multiple medications, to maintain or improve the recipient's health status, prevent serious deterioration of health status and/or prevent medical complications that may jeopardize life, health or development;
- Have a medically fragile condition, defined as a medically complex condition characterized by multiple, significant medical problems that require extended care. Medically fragile individuals are medically complex and potentially dependent upon medical devices, experienced medical supervision, and/or medical interventions to sustain life.

Examples of medically fragile conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Severe lung disease requiring oxygen;
- Severe lung disease requiring ventilator or tracheotomy care;
- Complicated heart disease;
- Complicated neuromuscular disease; and
- Unstable central nervous system disease.
- Be stable for outpatient medical services; and
- Have a signed physician's order, not to exceed 180 days, for PDHC by the recipient's physician specifying the frequency and duration of services.

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In the event, the medical director of the PDHC facility is also the recipient's prescribing physician, the Department of Health and Hospitals reserves the right to review the prescription for the recommendation of the recipient's participation in the PDHC Program.

**NOTE:** PDHC does not provide respite care and is not intended to be an auxiliary (back-up) for respite care.