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**CHAPTER 45: PEDIATRIC DAY HEALTH CARE**

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**BENEFICIARY CRITERIA**

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

- Be Louisiana Medicaid eligible;
- Be from birth up to 21 years of age;
- Have a medically complex condition which involves one or more physiological or organ systems and requires skilled nursing care and therapeutic interventions performed by a knowledgeable or experienced licensed professional registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) on an ongoing basis to preserve and maintain health status, prevent death, treat/cure disease, ameliorate disabilities or other adverse health conditions, and/or prolong life;
- Be a candidate for outpatient medical services in a home or community-based setting; and
- Have a signed physician's order and plan of care for PDHC by the beneficiary's physician specifying the frequency and duration of services. The plan of care must clearly outline the skilled nursing care and therapeutic interventions that will be performed in the PDHC. The plan of care must be individualized, specific and consistent with the symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the disease, condition, or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs.

In the event, the medical director of the PDHC facility is also the beneficiary's prescribing physician, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), fiscal intermediary (FI) or managed care organization (MCO) will review the order and plan of care for the recommendation of the beneficiary'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.