

APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response and COVID-19 Addendum

Background:

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendments to its approved waiver, to multiple approved waivers in the state, and/or to all approved waivers in the state. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.ⁱ This appendix may be applied retroactively as needed by the state. Public notice requirements normally applicable under 1915(c) do not apply to information contained in this Appendix.

Appendix K-1: General Information

General Information:

A. State: ND

B. Waiver Title(s): Developmental Disabilities Traditional IID/DD HCBS Waiver; Children’s Hospice; Medicaid Waiver (MW) for Home and Community Based Services; Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) birth through thirteen; Medically Fragile Children (MFC)

C. Control Number(s): ND.0037.R08.06
ND.0834.R02.05
ND .0273.R05.09
ND.0842.R02.06
ND.0568.R02.06

D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

E. Brief Description of Emergency. *In no more than one paragraph each*, briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state's mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

This appendix K is additive to the appendix K approved on March 25, 2021 and includes the following changes.

For the Developmental Disabilities Traditional IID/DD HCBS Waiver, effective May 1, 2021 State is ending the following modifications and returning to requirements approved in the waiver. The state is returning to normal operations, which provides a more integrated environment of HCBS. Ending these flexibilities does not impact waiver eligibility, service delivery, or provider rates.

- Service definition limitations on the number of people served, without requesting a variance, in each licensed or unlicensed setting may be exceeded for Prevocational Services, Small Group Employment Supports, Individual Employment Services, Residential Habilitation, and Adult Foster Care.
- Service definition limitations on the number of people served, without requesting a variance, in each licensed or unlicensed setting may be exceeded in Adult Foster Care.
- Residential habilitation and Independent Habilitation may be delivered in ICF home.

For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services

I. (b) (ii). Service Limits in Appendix C-1.C-3

-Return to the requirements approved in the waiver; the total number of individuals who live in an adult foster care home who are unrelated to the care provider cannot exceed four.

For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services

I. (d) (i) – end the exception to temporarily modify provider qualifications as follows and return to requirements approved under the waiver:

The minimum qualifications are required for the following services for providers:

- Chore
- Companionship
- Family Personal Care
- Homemaker
- Non-medical transportation
- Respite care
- Supervision

Agency Providers:

Competency Requirements: Direct service provider must be a:

- Current CNA, RN, LPN, or OT licensed in state of ND
- CNA whose ND license has expired within the last six months
- RN, LPN, OT licensed in good standing in another state per Executive Order 2020/05.
- Direct Service Associate employed by licensed Developmental Disability provider per NDAC 75-04-01

For Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services Agency providers

Must be an enrolled Qualified Service Provider (QSP) N.D.A.C. 75-03-23-07

Individual Providers:

Competency Requirements: Direct service provider must be a:

- Current CNA, RN, LPN, or OT licensed in state of ND
- CNA whose ND license has expired within the last six months
- RN, LPN, OT licensed in good standing in another state per Executive Order 2020/05.
- Direct Service Associate employed by licensed Developmental Disability provider per NDAC 75-04-01
- Legal family member

For Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services individual providers must be an enrolled Qualified Service Provider (QSP) N.D.A.C. 75-03-23-07

Agency & Individual Minimum Screening Requirements:

- QSP termination/ denial list
- Collection/ accounts receivable
- High risk provider list
- DEX verification
- State exclusion list
- Certified nurse assistant registry
- Board of Nursing credential verification
- Adult Foster Care - Fingerprinting and BCI check

Agency providers must assure minimum screening requirements are met within 30 days of hire. Agency staff may provide services during the 30 days.

State provider enrollment staff will assure minimum screening requirements are met at time of temporary enrollment for individual providers.

QSPs approved during the national emergency will be given a Temporary Enrollment approval. After August 31, 2020, providers will be required to send ND Medicaid all the

information that was not requested as part of the temporary enrollment process. If the additional information is not submitted within the required time limit of 6 months, the temporary enrollment will end, and the provider status would be stopped.

Agency & Individual provider re-enrollment for all waiver services:

- Extend re-enrollment period for 6 months during the pandemic beyond the current 2 year deadline for providers who are up for renewal during this period.

For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services

I. (h). end the flexibility for the ability to temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances and return to requirements approved under the waiver. Returning to regular operations improves and strengthens the health and welfare of waiver participants while returning to more integrated HCBS.

For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services
Appendix K Addendum: 4 (c) end the flexibility for the provider qualifications exception that allows other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver. No longer all RN, LPN, OT in good standing in another state to enroll as a provider

The state is adding the following to preserve and enhance HCBS during the PHE:
For the Developmental Disabilities Traditional IID/DD HCBS Waiver, effective August 1, 2021
Provider Managed In-Home Supports will be added to the services that may qualify for a retainer payment.

Effective 2/1/2022: For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services, increase the rate for supervision services for individual & agency QSP's to \$4.89 per 15 minute unit individual and \$6.71 per 15 minute unit agency rate, to bring the service rate up to the rate of other similar services under MW. The rate increase is based on feedback from stakeholders indicating the current rate of supervision services under the Appendix K was not sufficient to attract and retain an adequate number of providers to meet the need of individuals served.

F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date: March 1, 2020 **Anticipated End Date:** 6 Months after the Federal PHE.

G. Description of Transition Plan.

H. Geographic Areas Affected:

I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) Reference to external documents is acceptable:

Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver

Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:

These are changes that, while directly related to the state's response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied

scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches). Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

For the Developmental Disabilities Traditional IID/DD HCBS Waiver, effective May 1, 2021 State is ending the following modifications and returning to requirements approved in the waiver.

- Residential habilitation and Independent Habilitation may be delivered in ICF home.

v. Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]

For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services end the flexibility May 1, 2021 for the provider qualifications exception that allows other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver. No longer all RN, LPN, OT in good standing in another state to enroll as a provider

c. Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver. Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

d. Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).

i. Temporarily modify provider qualifications.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

For the Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services end the exception May 1, 2021 to temporarily modify provider qualifications as follows and return to requirements approved under the waiver:

The minimum qualifications are required for the following services for providers:

- Chore
- Companionship
- Family Personal Care
- Homemaker
- Non-medical transportation
- Respite care
- Supervision

Agency Providers:

Competency Requirements: Direct service provider must be a:

- Current CNA, RN, LPN, or OT licensed in state of ND
- CNA whose ND license has expired within the last six months
- RN, LPN, OT licensed in good standing in another state per Executive Order 2020/05.
- Direct Service Associate employed by licensed Developmental Disability provider per NDAC 75-04-01

For Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services Agency providers
Must be an enrolled Qualified Service Provider (QSP) N.D.A.C. 75-03-23-07

Individual Providers:

Competency Requirements: Direct service provider must be a:

- Current CNA, RN, LPN, or OT licensed in state of ND
- CNA whose ND license has expired within the last six months
- RN, LPN, OT licensed in good standing in another state per Executive Order 2020/05.
- Direct Service Associate employed by licensed Developmental Disability provider per NDAC 75-04-01
- Legal family member

For Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services individual providers
must be an enrolled Qualified Service Provider (QSP) N.D.A.C. 75-03-23-07

Agency & Individual Minimum Screening Requirements:

- QSP termination/ denial list
- Collection/ accounts receivable
- High risk provider list
- DEX verification
- State exclusion list
- Certified nurse assistant registry
- Board of Nursing credential verification
- Adult Foster Care - Fingerprinting and BCI check

Agency providers must assure minimum screening requirements are met within 30 days of hire. Agency staff may provide services during the 30 days.
State provider enrollment staff will assure minimum screening requirements are met at time of temporary enrollment for individual providers.

QSPs approved during the national emergency will be given a Temporary Enrollment approval. After August 31, 2020, providers will be required to send ND Medicaid all the

information that was not requested as part of the temporary enrollment process. If the additional information is not submitted within the required time limit of 6 months, the temporary enrollment will end, and the provider status would be stopped.

Agency & Individual provider re-enrollment for all waiver services:

- Extend re-enrollment period for 6 months during the pandemic beyond the current 2 year deadline for providers who are up for renewal during this period.

ii. ___ Temporarily modify provider types.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the .provider type for each service].

iii. ___ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e. _ Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements). [Describe]

f. X _ Temporarily increase payment rates.

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current

approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider.]

ND.0273: Rate increase for supervision for individual & agency QSP to \$4.89 per 15 minute unit for individual and \$6.71 per 15 minute unit for agency rate to be effective 2/1/2022. The rate increase brings the service rate up to the rate of other similar services under MW. The rate increase is based on feedback from stakeholders indicating the current rate of supervision services was not sufficient to attract and retain an adequate number of providers to meet the need of individuals served.

g. ___ Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

h. ___ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances. [Explanation of changes]

For the Aged and Disabled Waiver end the flexibility for the ability to temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances and return to requirements approved under the waiver.

i. ___ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.

[Specify the services.]

j. _x_ Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

ND. 0037: Effective 8/01/2021: There may be a limited number of circumstances where retainer payments to a limited number of DD providers may be considered. The following services which include a personal care component maybe eligible: Provider Managed In-Home Supports.

The conditions for the retainer payments include when the location remained open but other providers or legal decision makers choose to not to send participants which resulted in attendance and utilization for the service location to drop below 75% of the monthly utilization average.

These payments would be determined on a case by case basis; all cases decisions would be based on an analysis of factors directly related to the exigent and limiting realities of the emergency.

The state will allow up to three episodes of up to 30 consecutive days per beneficiary for personal assistance retainer payments. The state assures a retainer payment will not exceed the payment for the relevant service. The state will collect an attestation from the provider acknowledging that retainer payments will be subject to recoupment if inappropriate billing or duplicate payments for services occurred or duplicate uses of available funding streams, as identified in a state or federal audit or any other authorized third party review. The state will require an attestation from the provider that it will not lay off staff and will maintain wages at existing levels. The state will require an attestation from the provider that they had not received funding from any other sources, including but not limited to, unemployment benefits and Small Business Administration loans, that would exceed their revenue for the last full quarter prior to the PHE, or that the retainer payments at the level provided by the state would not result in their revenue exceeding that of the quarter prior to the PHE. If a provider had not already received revenues in excess of the pre-PHE level but receipt of the retainer payment in addition to those prior sources of funding results in the provider exceeding the pre-PHE level, any retainer payment amounts in excess would be recouped. If a provider had already received revenues in excess of the pre-PHE level, retainer payments are not available. The retainer payment will not exceed 40% of the providers average revenue for the time period of Oct 2019 - Dec 2019

k. ___ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards.]

l. ___ Increase Factor C.

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

m. ___ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

Appendix K Addendum: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

1. HCBS Regulations

- a. Not comply with the HCBS settings requirement at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)(vi)(D) that individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time, for settings added after March 17, 2014, to minimize the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Services

- a. Add an electronic method of service delivery (e.g., telephonic) allowing services to continue to be provided remotely in the home setting for:
 - i. Case management
 - ii. Personal care services that only require verbal cueing
 - iii. In-home habilitation
 - iv. Monthly monitoring (i.e., in order to meet the reasonable indication of need for services requirement in 1915(c) waivers).
 - v. Other *[Describe]*:

- b. Add home-delivered meals
- c. Add medical supplies, equipment and appliances (over and above that which is in the state plan)
- d. Add Assistive Technology

3. Conflict of Interest: The state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic personnel crisis by authorizing case management entities to provide direct services. Therefore, the case management entity qualifies under 42 CFR 441.301(c)(1)(vi) as the only willing and qualified entity.

- a. Current safeguards authorized in the approved waiver will apply to these entities.
- b. Additional safeguards listed below will apply to these entities.

4. Provider Qualifications

- a. Allow spouses and parents of minor children to provide personal care services
- b. Allow a family member to be paid to render services to an individual.

- c. Allow other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver. *[Indicate the providers and their qualifications]*

- d. Modify service providers for home-delivered meals to allow for additional providers, including non-traditional providers.

5. Processes

- a. Allow an extension for reassessments and reevaluations for up to one year past the due date.
- b. Allow the option to conduct evaluations, assessments, and person-centered service planning meetings virtually/remotely in lieu of face-to-face meetings.
- c. Adjust prior approval/authorization elements approved in waiver.
- d. Adjust assessment requirements
- e. Add an electronic method of signing off on required documents such as the person-centered service plan.

Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

First Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
Last Name Click or tap here to enter text.
Title: Click or tap here to enter text.
Agency: Click or tap here to enter text.
Address 1: Click or tap here to enter text.
Address 2: Click or tap here to enter text.
City Click or tap here to enter text.
State Click or tap here to enter text.
Zip Code Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail Click or tap here to enter text.
Fax Number Click or tap here to enter text.

B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

First Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
Last Name Click or tap here to enter text.
Title: Click or tap here to enter text.
Agency: Click or tap here to enter text.
Address 1: Click or tap here to enter text.
Address 2: Click or tap here to enter text.
City Click or tap here to enter text.
State Click or tap here to enter text.
Zip Code Click or tap here to enter text.
Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail Click or tap here to enter text.
Fax Number Click or tap here to enter text.

8. Authorizing Signature

Signature:

/S/

Date: August 7, 2020

State Medicaid Director or Designee

First Name: *Caprice*
Last Name *Knapp*
Title: Director of Medical Services
Agency: Department of Human Services- Medical Services Division
Address 1: 600 East Boulevard Ave Dept 325
Address 2: Click or tap here to enter text.
City Bismarck
State ND
Zip Code 58505
Telephone: 701-328-1603
E-mail ckapp@nd.gov
Fax Number Click or tap here to enter text.

Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver that the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification should be readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

Service Specification			



ⁱ Numerous changes that the state may want to make may necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority.

States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; or (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.