

March 24, 2020

ND Medicaid: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions – Medically Fragile Waiver, Children’s Hospice Waiver and Autism Spectrum (ASD) Waiver and Voucher

If a child is not able to receive a service monthly due to workforce shortages, will the child lose their waiver slot?

No. Medically Fragile and Children’s Hospice waivers require a service to be used quarterly with case management functions to cover the other months. If the child/family is talking with their case manager on months they are not receiving other waiver services, the child will remain eligible.

For the ASD waiver, Service Management is a service within the waiver; therefore, if the child/family is talking to their Service Manager monthly, the child will remain eligible for the waiver.

A child only needs to receive one service per quarter to remain eligible for the waivers. On April 1, 2020, a new quarter will start, and it will end on June 30, 2020.

Can a child/family enrolled in the ASD voucher increase their respite during the national emergency?

If the child is receiving respite, parents/guardians would need to talk to their respite provider and inquire about the availability of additional respite hours. If the provider can provide the additional hours, the parent/guardian would need to send in another purchase request form (<https://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn60677.pdf>) with adjusted hours within budget and send to the Medical Services division.

How can providers address staff shortages?

Providers must look at each client and setting to determine if it is feasible to adjust current staffing patterns, while maintaining health and safety for each child. Any changes in staffing patterns must be discussed with the child’s team.

Can a provider refuse to provide a service or staff person for a service that they are authorized to provide?

Providers may discuss with the child, parent/guardian and other team members if there are services that can be placed on hold for a period of time; however, the provider cannot refuse to provide the service if they are authorized. If the provider still determines they cannot provide the service, the provider must start the discharge process.

Providers should follow the CDC recommendations and consider implementing a check-in prior to staff going into the home to ensure individuals in the home are not symptomatic.

MEDICAL SERVICES

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What else is the Medical Services division doing during the national emergency to assist families and providers with waiver flexibilities?

The division will be submitting Appendix K for each of the waivers, to allow for additional flexibilities during the national emergency. The division is working on the appendixes and will share them as soon as possible.

Where can I get information and updates about COVID-19?

Information about the North Dakota Department of Human Services response to COVID-19 is available at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/covid-19/dhs-covid-19.html>.

Information about North Dakota's response and updates about COVID-19 is available from the North Dakota Department of Health at <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>.

Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.