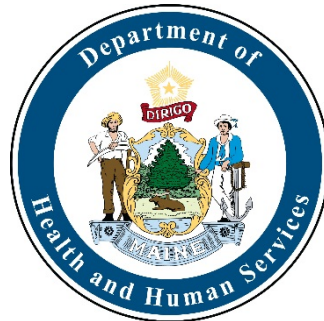


# Maine's Appendix K for the HCBS Waivers (18, 20, 21, 29)

Maine Coalition for Housing and  
Quality Services Meeting  
05/11/20



# Maine Appendix K – Overview

- This standalone Appendix K authorizes temporary modifications to Maine's 5 existing 1915(c) HCBS waivers to allow for flexibility in an emergency
- Effective Date: March 1, 2020
- Initial Appendix K application was submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on April 28 and we just received final approval on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Approach

- Temporarily lift limits on certain services likely to be needed more during the emergency, subject to prior authorization
- Temporarily increase rates on certain direct care services, with the expectation that at least 80% of the increase will go to direct care workers
- Create a new temporary service for the care of COVID-19 positive members

# Approach, Cont.

- Allow up to 3 persons in a Shared Living home, with increased reimbursement when serving multiple members
- Provide temporary regulatory relief to ensure needed flexibility during the emergency
  - Allow services to be provided in alternative settings approved by the department
  - Ease provider qualifications
  - Allow agencies to hire and pay family members

# Temporarily Lift Limits on Key Services

- AT devices and services- up to \$6,000, with up to \$200/mo. data transmission (all waivers)
- Care coordination (18, 19 and 20)
- Shared Living rate increase for more than 1 member, and allows up to 3 members (21 and 29, and added as a service in 20)
- Respite (19 and 29)
- Home Support Quarter Hour (18, 20, 21 and 29)

All temporary limit exceptions subject to prior authorization and in effect 3/1 through 5/31.

# Temporary Rate Increases

- Temporary increase of 10% on specified direct care and related rates. In effect 3/1/20 to 5/31/20. Within 30 days of emergency end, agencies to report on how increase was spent.
- Temporary increase in reimbursement when serving multiple members in a Shared Living

# Temporary Services for the Care of COVID-19 Positive Clients

- Emergency Quarantine Services
  - Provides isolation care within or outside of the participant's regular home
  - Reimbursed at OADS' Emergency Transitional Housing rate - \$665.28 a day
  - Subject to prior authorization; no duplication allowed
- Services in an Acute Care Setting
  - When hospital is willing to receive the staffing
  - And/or unable to provide the care

# Expanded Settings

- Services may be provided in alternative settings such as hotels, shelters, churches or others, as approved by Department
- Licensing requirements may be waived or expedited for temporary settings provided that health and safety can be assured
- Community Support can be provided in participants homes (or other settings)
- Telehealth delivery options expanded
- Providers must document settings in a format specified by the Department



# Flexibility on Provider Qualifications and Staffing Levels

- Provided that the health and safety is assured through agency oversight:
  - Age requirement reduced to 17
  - High School/GED waived
  - Training requirements for new hires eased
  - Family members/spouses may be hired by agency to provide services
- Staffing level of at least 50% of authorized must be maintained

# Temporarily Permit Payment for Services Provided by Family Caregivers

- Includes personal support, attendant care
- Family caregivers includes relatives or spouses of waiver participants
- Must be hired by or established as a contractor with a provider agency
- Provider agency ensures services are provided as authorized in member's PCP
- Must be prior authorized

# Implementing Temporary Changes

- Implementation guidance to be issued by Department
- Changes will be documented in the person-centered plan, but meeting and signature requirements are eased
- Through the person-centered planning process, participants will transition back to pre-emergency service plans as soon as can be safely achieved

# Next Steps

- Detailed guidance is being developed
- Office Hours scheduled for agencies and others to ask specific questions

# Questions?

**[OADS@Maine.gov](mailto:OADS@Maine.gov)** – subject line: **Appendix K Question**

