

Nursing Services



Nursing Services

Many individuals on the current Aged and Disabled (A&D) Waiver also receive nursing services. With changes being proposed for the waivers (individuals 59 and under transitioning to the Health and Wellness, or H&W, Waiver July 1, 2024) and lots of information swirling on the internet, many families are confused. Some are wondering if they will lose nursing services with the proposed changes.

Will I lose my nursing?

No, you should not lose your nursing services. None of the changes being proposed for any of the Medicaid waivers involve nursing services. The most controversial changes being proposed involve who can be paid to provide attendant care and home and community assistance through the current A&D Waiver (soon to be the H&W Waiver) and the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver.

If I lose my Attendant Care, do I lose my nursing?

The changes being proposed for the H&W Waiver and TBI Waiver do not eliminate Attendant Care services. The proposal would prevent Legally Responsive Individuals, spouses and parents of minor children, from being paid to provide those services. Another personal care attendant, such as an unrelated staff person, grandparents, adult siblings, or aunt and uncles, or legal guardian could still provide Attendant Care. These changes do not impact nursing services.

How are nursing services paid?

Nursing services are provided in two different ways. Medicaid health coverage can provide home health nursing or a home health aide. Individuals must get Prior Authorization from Medicaid for this service, and as a result, it is often referred to as Medicaid PA or PA Nursing. Many medical services, like therapies, medical equipment, and some prescriptions, require prior authorization from Medicaid before the cost of these services is covered. Nursing services often fall under this requirement. Individuals most often qualify for this type of nursing care when a parent or spouse is working or going to school. There are also other ways individuals can qualify for this support, such as when the primary caregiver is recovering from an illness, injury, or surgery.

Individuals can also get nursing care through Respite Services, which is paid for by a Medicaid Waiver. A person cannot receive respite nursing while their parent or spouse are working, so this service is used when the primary caregiver is not working.

You may have the same home health, or nursing, agency provide both services. You may even have the same nurse who provides both services. The services are just billed separately. If you are unsure which service you are using – PA or respite – talk with your home health agency or your case manager to learn more.

Again, none of the changes being proposed impact nursing services.

What do I do if my nursing is covered by Medicaid health coverage?

Nothing. Prior Authorizations are usually approved for a certain amount of time. Talk with your provider to make sure you are doing everything you need to do. Find out when the next Prior Authorization request will be submitted and if there is anything you need to do to assist with the request. Waiver changes should have no impact on Medicaid health coverage funded nursing.

What if my nursing is paid by the waiver?

Talk with your case manager and provider. You may consider calling a team meeting to discuss if the proposed changes could impact your waiver funded nursing services. Talk with your team about what you really want for your loved one and how to maximize various programs – waiver services, Medicaid health coverage funded services, and community resources – to help you achieve those goals.

Public Comments

We encourage families to submit public comments to share how the proposed Medicaid Waiver changes will impact them.

Email: DDRSwaivernoticecomment@fssa.IN.gov

Mail: FSSA Division of Disabilities and Rehabilitative Services

P.O. Box 7083, Indianapolis, IN 46027

Attn: Medicaid Waiver Amendments

[Public comments can be submitted through February 16, 2024.](#)

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