



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

JASON WEIDA
SECRETARY

April 19, 2024

Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Policy Transmittal: 2024-05

Applicable to the **2018-2024 SMMC contract benefits** for:

- Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) and MMA Specialty
- Long-Term Care (LTC)
- Dental

Re: Update to PT 2023-12: Ad Hoc Request for Individualized Transition Plan for Nursing Facility Children - Implementation of Private Duty Nursing (PDN) Services and Supports

The managed care plan is required to provide the Agency or its agents any other information or data relative to this contract in accordance with 42 CFR 438.604(b). In such instances, and at the direction of the Agency, the managed care plan must fully cooperate with such requests and furnish all data or information in a timely manner, in the format in which it is requested. The managed care plan must have at least thirty (30) days to fulfill such ad hoc requests unless the Agency directs the managed care plan to provide data or information in less than thirty (30) days. The managed care plan must certify that data and information it submits to the Agency is accurate, truthful, and complete in accordance with 42 CFR 438.606. (MMA & LTC: Attachment II, Section XVI.A.1.b.). The purpose of this policy transmittal is to inform the managed care plan of the Agency's updated process for the requirement to offer "home visits to other family homes where PDN Children are receiving PDN in the Community" (Family-to-Family Home Visiting) and "family to family peer support from a family that has received PDN for a child" (Family-to-Family Peer Support) as part of the Transition Planning Process.

An Order of Injunction (Document 1171) entered in United States v. Florida, 12-60460-CV (S.D. Fla.), was issued July 14, 2023. The injunction requires an individualized transition plan be completed for "every NF Child and every child with Complex Medical Needs who may be admitted to a Nursing Facility" by September 1, 2023, and updated at least once every three months. The injunction defines "NF Children" as "individuals who live in Nursing Facilities, have Complex Medical Needs, and either (1) are under 30 years of age and began living in a Nursing Facility before reaching 21 years of age, or (2) are under 21 years of age. A NF Child who is hospitalized remains, during the period of hospitalization, a NF Child." On July 28, 2023, the Agency issued Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Policy Transmittal (PT): 2023-10, Individualized Transition Plan for Nursing Facility Children – Reporting Requirements, to inform managed care plans of these requirements for transition planning.

The Agency then issued PT 2023-12, *Ad Hoc Request for Individualized Transition Plan for Nursing Facility Children – Implementation of Private Duty Nursing (PDN) Services and Supports*, to provide additional information on the other services and supports referenced in PT 2023-10. As instructed in PT 2023-12, as part of the "Individualized Transition Planning Process" required by the injunction, "parent(s)/guardian(s) must be provided complete, accurate, individualized information about, and outreach and engagement that provides a full opportunity to learn about and explore receipt of, available PDN and other community-based services and supports. These other services and supports include home visits to other family homes where PDN Children are



receiving PDN in the Community, as well as family to family peer support from a family that has received PDN for a child.”

The purpose of these support services are to help families that have children in nursing homes decide whether to bring their children home. There are two support services that parent(s)/guardians can volunteer for: allowing other families to visit their home to see how PDN is provided, and providing peer support for families that are considering PDN for their children. These options are described below.

1. **Family-to-Family Home Visiting.** This is an opportunity for families of children receiving PDN services to provide visiting opportunities to a family with a child in a nursing facility who is interested in learning about PDN services. Home visits can be either in-person or virtual, and the care coordinator of the child residing in the nursing facility shall accompany the family during all visits. The purpose of these visits is to allow the family of a child residing in a nursing facility to observe PDN services provided in the home and to afford these parent(s)/guardian(s) the opportunity to ask questions. Families that volunteer for this service as a host for home visits shall determine the date, duration, and frequency of these visits and can stop participation at any time.
2. **Family-to-Family Peer Support.** This is an opportunity for families of children receiving PDN services to be a sponsor to a family with a child in a nursing facility who is interested in learning about PDN services. Families that volunteer as a sponsor providing peer support will serve as a resource for families with a child in a nursing facility to learn about PDN services provided in the home. Interactions may be one-on-one or with groups of families and can take place in person, virtually, or by telephone. Families that volunteer for this service as a family sponsor for peer support shall determine the date, duration, frequency, and modality of these interactions and can stop participation at any time. Family-to-Family Peer Support does not include home visiting.

Interested Volunteer Correspondence:

Families interested in providing these services may volunteer in two ways:

- The volunteer can email PDNFamilies@ahca.myflorida.com; or
- The volunteer can mail a physical letter to the Quality Bureau Chief, Melissa Vergeson at:

Agency for Health Care Administration
Attention: Melissa Vergeson
2727 Mahan Drive MS 38
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Managed Care Plan Requirements

At each transition planning process, including the initial transition planning process and the subsequent transition planning processes that occur at least once every three months, the managed care plan shall offer the Family-to-Family Home Visiting service and the Family-to-Family Peer Support service to the child’s parent(s)/guardian(s). The managed care plan will

coordinate the provision of these services and shall ensure that the care coordinator of the NF Child attends all in-home visits provided through the Family-to-Family Home Visiting service. The managed care plan shall report information related to these services in a manner and format directed by the Agency.

Interested Services Request Correspondence

The managed care plan will notify the Plan Management Operations (PMO) assigned contract manager when a family expresses interest in receiving either the Family-to-Family Home Visiting service or the Family-to-Family Peer Support service, or both.

The Agency will maintain an up-to-date centralized list of all families that have communicated their interest in participating in either the Family-to-Family Home Visiting service or the Family-to-Family Peer Support service, or both. When notified that a family has expressed interest in receiving the Family-to-Family Home Visiting service or the Family-to-Family Peer Support service, or both, the Agency will utilize this list to provide the managed care plan with at minimum three (3) identified volunteers. In identifying volunteers, the Agency will consider the geographical proximity of the volunteers to the family requesting support services. The Agency will contact the volunteers to determine their interest in providing the service to the requesting family. The contact information for the interested volunteers will then be shared with the managed care plan via their contract manager.

If you have any questions, please contact your Agency contract manager.

Sincerely,



Austin Noll
Deputy Secretary
Medicaid Policy, Quality, and Operations

AN/jp