

Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Fact Sheet

Purpose

- ❖ The Autism Waiver through Medical Assistance will allow eligible children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to receive specific services to support them in their homes and communities.

Background

- ❖ House Bill 99 was adopted during the 1998 session of the General Assembly. The bill required the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to apply to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), for a Home and Community-Based Services Waiver that would target services to children with autism. In August 1998, DHMH applied for a Section 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Service Waiver that would allow children with autism certified as needing services from an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) to receive the waiver services necessary to support them in their homes communities.
- ❖ On September 1, 2000 DHMH received confirmation from CMS that the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Children with Autism was approved.

Target Population:

- ❖ Children, who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, defined in the DSM-IV as 299.00 & 299.80.
- ❖ Children who are ages 1 to 3 years old with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- ❖ Children who are ages 3 through the end of the semester that the child turns 21 years old with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and receive more than 15 hours per week of special education and related services.
- ❖ Children who meet an ICF-MR Level-of-Care, that is, an institutional level of care, and can be served in the community through waiver services.
- ❖ Children who are currently enrolled in Medicaid's Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) or in any other Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver and are determined eligible for the Autism Waiver must choose the Medicaid program which best meets their needs.

Services to Support the Child in the Community

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Respite Care◆ Environmental Accessibility Adaptations◆ Family Training◆ Service Coordination◆ Residential Habilitation: regular or intensive◆ Supported Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Day Habilitation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Regular or Intensive✓ Intensive Individual Support Services (home/community)✓ Therapeutic Integration (after school) |
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Benefits

- ❖ Waiver participants will be eligible for additional services such as respite care, environmental modifications to their home, and family training.
- ❖ The waiver child may use their Medical Assistance card to access additional Medicaid-covered services.
- ❖ Day Habilitation Services includes intensive individual support services provided in the home or in the community, therapeutic integration services, regular or intensive day habilitation.
- ❖ Local school systems, specialized programs, and early intervention programs will be able to seek Medicaid reimbursement for some of the services they provide.
- ❖ Additional children will be Medicaid eligible.

Disadvantages

- ❖ Significant level of participation required for the family as well as the State and Local agencies.

Administration

- ❖ Financial eligibility will be based upon the child's income and resources. DHR determines financial and certain technical eligibility requirements.
- ❖ The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), through the early intervention programs and local school systems, is responsible for administering the waiver.
- ❖ Families should contact their early intervention program or local school system to initiate the eligibility determination process.
- ❖ The waiver is approved for three years to serve approximately 250 children the first year, 300 the second year, and 350 the third year. This is an automatic increase of 50 slots each year.
- ❖ The appeals process for this waiver is through a request for a Fair Hearing under the Maryland State Medical Assistance Program/DHMH.

- ❖ **Waiver Effective Date- July 1, 2001**

NOTE: All Waiver Service providers must be approved Medicaid providers and appropriately licensed or certified. For more information on the Autism Waiver, Call the Maryland State Department of Education at 410-767-1446 or the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at 410-767-5220.