



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

November 26, 2013

To: Nursing Supervision Agencies

From: Mark A. Leeds, Director

Long Term Care & Community Support Services

Re: Community First Choice

The purpose of this memo is to provide nursing supervision agencies with policy changes regarding Community First Choice.

Effective January 6, 2014, the Living at Home Waiver Program will be consolidated with the Waiver for Older Adults program to form a new program called the Home and Community-Based Options Waiver.

Also effective January 6, 2014, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will be implementing a new State Plan program called Community First Choice (CFC). The CFC program has been established to allow individuals who meet an institutional level of care to receive certain home and community-based services and supports in their homes instead of an institutional setting. CFC will be implemented as a State Plan option for all eligible participants under the regulatory authority COMAR 10.09.84.

Some services that were formerly part of the waivers will become CFC services as of January 6, 2014, to allow a larger group of people to access these services. Nursing Supervision services are one service which will be moved from the waiver to CFC. Under CFC, the providers of nursing supervision services will be limited under the 1915(b)(4) authority. Only local health departments will provide nurse monitoring service under CFC.

In order to maintain continuity of services, this provider limitation will be phased in between January 6th and July 1st of 2014. During this time, local health department staff will be contacting each agency to develop transition plans for the transfer of nursing supervision services.

Current providers will not be able to bill for nursing supervision services after July 1, 2014. Please note that providers should continue to bill the current procedure code and rate until July 1, 2014.

The discontinuation of provider status as a nursing supervision provider will not affect any other services for which the provider is enrolled. Providers will not need to complete a new application or forward any documentation to maintain current enrollment status for services other than nursing supervision and provider numbers will not change for those other services. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will update your existing provider enrollment status to accommodate this change on your behalf.

Please note that agencies licensed as Residential Services Agencies and Nursing Referral Service Agencies must still comply with the licensure requirements in COMAR 10.07.05 and 10.07.07.

You may appeal this decision in accordance with COMAR 10.09.36.09 by requesting, in writing, a hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings. Please include a brief statement of the basis of your appeal and attach a copy of this letter to your request. You must file your request for hearing within 30 days of the date of this notice by mailing or delivering your request to:

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Services
Attn: Appeals
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Living at Home Waiver Division at 410-767-7479 or Waiver for Older Adults at 410-767-5220.