



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Provider Bulletin
Number PR0113

Subject: Partial Medicaid Flexibilities under Appendix K Extended

Issue Date: October 20, 2021

Effective Date: 10/7/2021

Scope

All IDD Service Providers

Purpose

To confirm *extension of partial Medicaid flexibilities* under the Appendix K for ID/DD Waiver and State Plan IDD Community Support Program *through December 31, 2021* (IDD providers initially informed by DMH through email on October 7, 2021)

Subject

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) informed the Department of Mental Health on October 7, 2021 that certain flexibilities approved under the Appendix K for the ID/DD Waiver and State Plan for IDD Community Support Program were **extended through December 31, 2021**. See instructions described below:

The Division of Medicaid will allow the following flexibilities in the Appendix K for the ID/DD Waiver and CSP, where applicable:

- **For Support Coordinators/Targeted Case Managers** - Monthly/Quarterly Contacts and Recerts/Readmissions may be conducted via telephone or video conference *through December 31, 2021*. Initials must be conducted via video conference or face to face if video conference is not available. DOM expects timely admissions to the waiver and should not be delayed due to lack of technology. Face-to-face visits must still be completed with beneficiaries if any of the following concerns are identified:
 - Participant/representative is unable to communicate by phone due to an auditory or cognitive impairment.
 - Participant has unmet needs that cannot be resolved by phone.
 - Participant has identified risks for Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation including the use of restraints or seclusion that require in person monitoring.
 - Participant/representative is unable to be reached by phone.

In instances where, based on the above requirements, an in-person visit needs to be completed with an individual who is quarantined due to being COVID positive or has been directly exposed to someone who is COVID positive, please reach out to Betty Pinion, Director of ID/DD Waiver at betty.pinion@dmh.ms.gov or Deborah Etzold, Director of IDD Community Support Program, deborah.etzold@dmh.ms.gov for further guidance. As always, we encourage your staff to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), practice social distancing to the extent possible

and follow other COVID safety protocols (i.e. handwashing, sanitizing, etc.) when completing in home visits to protect themselves and the participant.

- **Day Services-Adult and Prevocational services** may be provided, *through December 31, 2021*, in DMH approved settings (Supervised Living, Supported Living, Shared Supported Living, or the individual's home) which are included in the Statewide Transition Plan.
- **Day Services-Adult and Prevocational services** may be provided, *through December 31, 2021*, telephonically or virtually where appropriate in accordance with HIPAA requirements.
- **Day Services-Adult and Prevocational services**, when provided telephonically or virtually, is covered up to three (3) hours per day per service and will be reimbursed at the lowest support level.

If you have questions, contact Betty Pinion, Director of ID/DD Waiver at betty.pinion@dmh.ms.gov or call (601)359-5797 or Deborah Etzold, Director of IDD Community Support Program at deborah.etzold@dmh.ms.gov or call (601)359-5777.

End of Provider Bulletin