



Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Provider Bulletin

Number PR0092

Subject: Clarification of changes to IDD Services due to COVID-19 Crisis

Issue Date: April 17, 2020

Effective Date: March 1, 2020

Scope

All DMH Certified Providers of IDD Services

Purpose

Clarify changes to IDD Services due to COVID-19.

Background

The Division of Medicaid (DOM) has submitted a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) known as Appendix K: Emergency Preparedness and Response. The Appendix K allows states to amend the scope of services outlined in 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services waivers in response to an emergency. To review the approved Appendix K for the Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) Waiver, go the following link on the Division of Medicaid website:

<https://medicaid.ms.gov/cms-approves-appendix-k-emergency-preparedness-and-response-for-id-dd-waiver/>

Subject

Changes to Day Program Services

The Approved Appendix K allows current certified IDD Providers of Day Services Adult or Prevocational Services to provide those services in the person's home. This includes DMH approved settings which provide Supervised Living, Shared Supported Living, or Supported Living. A person has the right to decline participating in Day Services Adult or Prevocational Services in their home.

Day Services Adult or Prevocational Services may also be provided telephonically or virtually where appropriate in accordance with HIPAA requirements. If the service is provided telephonically or virtually, there is a max limit of up to three (3) hours per day and will be reimbursed at the lowest support level.

Providers must assure appropriate documentation of the service provided through *daily* Service Notes. Service Notes must include how and where the service was provided and time in/out for each service. All required documentation outlined in the Department of Mental Health's Record Guide applies.

Modifies Person-Centered Plan Development and Follow Up Process

The Appendix K allows required face-to-face or home visits, quarterly reviews, and Plan of Services and Supports (PSS) meetings by Support Coordination to be completed by telephone. Support Coordinators will still be required to complete monthly contacts with persons/caregivers by telephone to ensure services are received as authorized. Providers are allowed to develop and review Activity Support Plans with individuals and their family/legal representative by telephone.

ICAP Level of Care Evaluation/Reevaluation

The Appendix K allows ICAPs for level of care evaluations/reevaluations to be completed by State authority telephonically where appropriate in accordance with HIPAA requirements. Diagnostic Services at Regional Programs will complete all initial ICAPs. Support Coordination will complete ICAPs for all recertifications.

Flexibility in Personnel Requirements for Employees Providing ID/DD Waiver Services

The Appendix K allows flexibility on expiring state issued identification, training, background checks, etc. at DOM's discretion throughout the pandemic. Flexibilities include temporarily waiving/delaying requirements on state issued ID. Training for CPR, first aid, and other trainings may be conducted online. To ensure ongoing quality of care and safety, new provider staff will be required to have a name only background check with results that does not preclude them from providing care in accordance with state law. These flexibilities apply to all ID/DD Waiver providers and services.

For additional questions, please refer to the ID/DD Waiver and Community Support Program FAQ's on the Division of Medicaid website at <https://medicaid.ms.gov/coronavirus-updates/> or you may contact Betty Pinion, Director of the ID/DD Waiver, at betty.pinion@dmh.ms.gov

End of Provider Bulletin