



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Provider Bulletin
Number PR0108

Subject: Partial Medicaid Flexibilities Extended under Appendix K due to Surge in Covid Cases

Issue Date: September 7, 2021
Effective Date: August 9, 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 due to surge in COVID cases (IDD providers initially informed by DMH through email on August 13, 2021)

Subject

The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) informed the Department of Mental Health on August 9, 2021, that certain flexibilities approved under the Appendix K for the ID/DD Waiver and State Plan for IDD Community Support Program could be extended for a period of time due to the recent surge of COVID cases in the State. Note the extension is time-limited with varied ending date. See instructions described below:

DOM will allow the following flexibilities in the Appendix K for the ID/DD Waiver and CSP, where applicable:

- **For Support Coordination/Targeted Case Management** - Monthly/Quarterly Contacts and Recerts/Readmissions Plan of Services and Supports (PSS) meetings may be conducted via telephone or video conference *through September 15, 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 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 home visits to protect themselves and the participant.

- **Day Services-Adult and Prevocational services may be provided in DMH approved settings** (Supervised Living, Supported Living, Shared Supported Living, or the individual's home), ***through September 30, 2021***, which are included in the Statewide Transition Plan.
- **Day Services-Adult and Prevocational services may be provided telephonically or virtually** where appropriate in accordance with HIPAA requirements ***through September 30, 2021***
- **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