



Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC)

E-VISORY



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Home and Community Based Services Waiver Assistive Technology and Environmental Modifications

On May 14, 2014 OPWDD's Division of Enterprise Solutions and the Division of Person-Centered Supports issued a memorandum providing information on OPWDD's implementation of reimbursement limits for HCBS Assistive Technology-Adaptive Devices and Environmental Home accessibility Modifications. **Effective May 28, 2014**, any requests for Assistive Technology or Environmental Modification authorizations received by the Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDRO) will be subject to these new limits. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact your local DDRO, or email questions to Lynda.Baum-Jakubiak@opwdd.ny.gov. Please refer to the attached memorandum for further details.

Bullying and People with Developmental Disabilities

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) is interested in finding out more about bullying and individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities as little is known about bullying among individuals with disabilities. In order to find out more about this important issue the DDPC is working with a grantee to conduct focus groups across the state, including:

- Individuals (both children and adults) with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities,
- Family members of people with disabilities,
- Friends, classmates and/or coworkers of people with disabilities,
- People who work with or provide care for people with disabilities outside the immediate family, and
- Employers of people with disabilities.

The information gathered at these meetings will be used to assist in developing a plan of action to address bullying prevention for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The focus groups will be conducted in June and July in the following areas of New York State: New York City/Long Island, Capital District, North Country, Southern Tier, Rochester, and Buffalo.

If you would like to participate in one of the focus groups or be interviewed, please contact Ashley Pacelli at either 1-800-395-3372 or Ashley.pacelli@ddpc.ny.gov. Ashley will need the following information for individuals interested in either the focus groups or interviews:

- Name
- Email/Phone Number
- Who you represent (individual, family member, agency, etc.)
- Interested in focus group or interview
- Region of state where you would want to participate



MEMORANDUM

To: Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) Providers
HCBS Waiver Service Providers

From: Kevin Valenchis, Deputy Commissioner *Kevin M. Valenchis*
Division of Enterprise Solutions

Gerald Huber, Deputy Commissioner *Gerald R. Huber*
Division of Person-Centered Supports

Subject: Implementing Cost Limits for HCBS Waiver Assistive Technology (Adaptive Devices) and Environmental Modifications (Home Accessibility) Services in OPWDD's Comprehensive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver

Date: May 14, 2014

As was discussed at the March 10, 2014 Discussion Board video conference, OPWDD is implementing reimbursement limits for Assistive Technology-Adaptive Devices and Environmental Home Accessibility Modifications (also known as E-mods). After extensive negotiations with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), OPWDD has agreed to modify its Comprehensive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver agreement regarding Assistive Technology and Environmental Home Accessibility Modifications. At the request of CMS, the State has agreed to place limits on total expenditures for these services for each person for a prescribed time period. **Effective May 28, 2014, any requests for Assistive Technology or Environmental Modifications authorization received by the Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDRO) on or after this date will be subject to these new limits:**

- o For **Assistive Technology Services**, the maximum expenditure per waiver enrolled individual may not exceed \$35,000 in any consecutive two-year period.
- o For **Environmental Modifications**, the maximum expenditure per waiver enrolled individual may not exceed \$60,000 in any consecutive five-year period.

These limits were established after reviewing recent cost information for these services and we are confident that implementing these expenditure capitations will neither create any undue hardship nor limit the vast majority of planned Assistive Technology and Environmental Modification services.

For all current projects already approved by the DDRO, this limit will not be applied, and the project shall continue in accordance with the current DDRO approval process. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the local DDRO, or email questions to lynda.baum-jakubiak@opwdd.ny.gov. There will also be an opportunity for questions at the next Medicaid Service Coordination Supervisors Statewide Video Conference. Thank you for your on-going assistance with this matter.

cc: OPWDD Leadership
Patricia Downes
Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Executive Office