



Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) E-VISORY



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The MSC E-VISORY is an electronic publication which provides information on policies, guidance, available programs and services and training opportunities related to MSC. In order to receive an email notification when a new MSC E-Visory is posted, or to view past issues visit the following link: [MSC E-Visory Mailing List](#).

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Social Evaluations for Initial Level of Care Eligibility Determination for HCBS Waiver Enrollment

On October 7, 2014 OPWDD issued a memorandum providing guidance and clarification as to the required elements of a Social Evaluation for purposes of completing the Initial Level of Care Eligibility Determination for Home and Community Based Services Waiver enrollment; and identifying who is qualified to perform such an evaluation. Please Note: the outline attached to this memorandum provides broad categories that may be included in a social evaluation, however, this is not a mandatory template. The full memorandum is available at the following link:

http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/additional_guidance

Administrative Memorandum #2010-04: OPWDD Home and Community Based Settings

Administrative Memorandum (ADM) #2014-04, dated October 20, 2014 has been issued by OPWDD. This ADM, entitled "Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Home and Community Based Settings Preliminary Transition Plan Implementation is designed to clarify the expectations and requirements surrounding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) final regulations and requirements for home and community based settings. The full Administrative Memorandum is available at the following link:

<http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/node/5760>

Medicaid Service Coordination Transition Payments for Individuals Moving from Institutional Settings

On October 15, 2014, the Division of Person Centered Supports issued a memorandum with an effective date of October 1, 2014 entitled Medicaid Service Coordination Transition Payments for Individuals Moving from Institutional Settings. A modification has been made to the transitional rate policy consistent with OPWDD's transformation agenda and commitment to supporting the people we serve in the most independent and integrated setting. As of October 1, 2014, those individuals who have received prior OPWDD service coordination may still be considered new to service coordination if he or she is transitioning from an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), Developmental Center, Residential School or Nursing Home and if he or she has resided in such a setting for at least two consecutive years. When such conditions are met, the MSC Vendor may access the transition payment. The full memorandum is available at the following link:

http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/additional_guidance



Self Direction Redesign Individualized Service Plan and Habilitation Plan Grace Period

All Individualized Service Plans and Habilitation Plans for individuals who are self directing their services need to reflect the changes to the self-direction redesign no later than March 31, 2015. An individual's ISP and Habilitation Plan that reference CSS are acceptable to support billing for Fiscal Intermediary, Live-in Caregiver, IDGS, Community Transition Services, Broker Services, Community Habilitation, Respite, SEMP, and Day Habilitation. The CSS Plan is acceptable whether the service has self-hired staff, is direct provider purchased, or is agency supported self-direction.

Changes in CHOICES and Listing of "Types of Service"

For agencies who utilize CHOICES, the type of service listing is now more detailed for Supported Employment, Respite, and Community Habilitation. Agencies may now choose from the following choices for the above services:

- Direct Provider Purchased – this service occurs when an individual selects a traditional OPWDD Home and Community Based Service and has chosen not to self-direct that service.
- Agency Supported Self-Directed: This service occurs when an individual selects to co-manage staff with the agency. The individual has chosen to self-direct with employer authority only. The person and the agency supporting self-direction enter into an agreement (called a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU) that identifies the management roles of the person and the agency.
- Self Hire, Fiscal Intermediary (FI) Employer of Record: This service occurs when an individual chooses to self-direct the service with employer and budget authority. The individual selects the staff, sets the salary, and determines the staff schedule and activities. The Fiscal Intermediary works with the individual to implement the Human Resource (HR) activities and to complete billing and payment. The individual must work within a Personal Resource Account (PRA).
- Self-Hire, Individual Employer of Record: This service occurs when an individual chooses to self-direct the service with employer and budget authority. The individual selects the staff, sets the salary, and determines the staff schedule and activities. The individual implements the Human Resource (HR) activities and the FI supports the individual with these activities. The individual must work within a Personal Resource Account (PRA).

Health Exchange Medicaid versus OPWDD HCBS Waiver Services Medicaid

Medicaid obtained through the Health Exchange is appropriate if an individual only wants State Plan services. Medicaid Service Coordination is a State Plan service. An individual or someone working with the individual may apply for Medicaid through the Health Exchange either online or by phone. The web address is <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov>.

If an individual wants OPWDD HCBS Waiver services, the Medicaid must be provided through the appropriate local Department of Social Services or the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA). A Medicaid disability determination has to be made in order for Medicaid to be approved which will cover HCBS Waiver services. The Medicaid application and supporting documentation (income, resources, citizenship status, age, etc.) should be submitted with the necessary medical documentation required for a disability review (including documentation of a developmental disability). If an individual receives Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, proof of receipt of the SSDI benefit will document that the individual has a disability determination already.