



OLTL Updates Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC)

March 23, 2023

Agenda

- CHC Request for Information(RFI)
- HCBS Settings Rule
- CHC and OBRA Waiver Amendment

CHC Request for Information(RFI)

CHC Request for Information

- Community Health Choices Request for Information (RFI)
 - RFI seeks information to assist the Department in gathering stakeholder feedback on the statement of work for the upcoming re-procurement before issuing a Request for Application for vendors to bid on program participation
 - Released March 6th
 - Comments accepted until April 14th

HCBS Settings Rule

➤ Heightened Scrutiny

- The Department has submitted all necessary required documents to CMS for their review.
- At this time, our position is that all of our service locations currently meet the requirements, but we are still waiting for CMS feedback on the heightened scrutiny sites submitted for review.
- Additional clarifications received:
 - States must either be in compliance with all regulatory settings criteria, or have requested a Corrective Action Plan from CMS
 - All CAPs will be approved effective March 17, 2023
 - PA submitted a CAP request to CMS on December 1, 2022 and is still pending CMS approval.

CHC and OBRA Waiver Amendment

CHC 1915(c) WAIVER AMENDMENT

Amendment is effective April 1, 2023.

Purpose of the Amendment:

- Amend service definitions:
 - Benefits Counseling
 - Home Health Aide Services
 - Nursing Services
 - Occupational Therapy Services
 - Physical Therapy Services
 - Speech and Language Therapy Services
- Modify Service Coordinator and Service Coordinator Supervisor qualifications to align with the CHC Agreement.

BENEFITS COUNSELING

- OLTL amends the Benefits Counseling service definition to remove the requirement that participants must access Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) services before accessing Benefits Counseling in the waiver. OLTL has found that benefits counseling from OVR is not comparable to Benefits Counseling in the waiver; therefore, OLTL is removing this barrier in the service definition so participants can access the waiver service sooner.

NURSING, HOME HEALTH AIDE, AND THE THERAPIES

- OLTL made the following technical edit in response to the CARES Act amendment to sections 1814(a) and 1835(a) of the Social Security Act, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, in addition to physicians, may prescribe and order the following services:
 - Home Health Aide Services
 - Nursing Services
 - Occupational Therapy Services
 - Physical Therapy Services
 - Speech and Language Therapy Services

SERVICE COORDINATOR QUALIFICATIONS

Service Coordinators must:

Be a registered nurse (RN) or have a Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or other related fields ~~with practicum experience~~, or in lieu of a Bachelor's degree, have at least three (3) or more years of experience in a social service or health care related setting.

Remove the requirement to have practicum experience to allow more individuals to meet Service Coordinator qualifications.

Service Coordinator supervisors must **be an RN or** have a Master's degree in social work or in a human services or healthcare field and three years of relevant experience with a commitment to obtain either a Pennsylvania social work or mental health professional license within one year of hire.

Correction to the supervisor paragraph in Appendix D-1-a to match Appendix C-1-c and the CHC Agreement.

OBRA Waiver Amendment

OBRA 1915(c) WAIVER AMENDMENT

Amendment is effective April 1, 2023.

Purpose of the Amendment:

- Amend the Benefits Counseling service definition.
- Amend the responsibilities of the Fiscal/Employer Agent by removing the requirement to have a support broker because the support broker activities are currently being provided either by the F/EA or by the service coordinators and would be duplicative. This same change was made to the CHC waiver in 2021.
- Revise performance measures:
 - Remove Performance Measure AA-6 because the data is being captured in AA-5 .

OBRA 1915(c) WAIVER AMENDMENT

- The Benefits Counseling service definition changes are the same as in the CHC waiver.
- For Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy – the technical edit adding nurse practitioners and physician assistant as prescribers for these services was already added to the OBRA waiver effective July 1, 2022 (not a substantive change).
- Appendix H has been updated to reflect the current Quality Improvement Strategy.
 - OLTL has consistently improved its Quality Improvement Strategy but has not updated Appendix H recently to reflect these practices.
- OLTL Bureau names and responsibilities have been updated.

OBRA 1915(c) WAIVER AMENDMENT

- Amend the responsibilities of the Fiscal/Employer Agent (F/EA) by removing the requirement for a Support Broker.
 - The duties designated to the Support Broker are being conducted by the F/EA and Service Coordinators.
 - This change was made to the CHC waiver effective January 1, 2021.
 - OLTL's rationale for removing the Support Broker from the OBRA waiver is the same as it was for the CHC waiver.

Questions?

