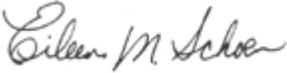


	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Michael Dallas Model Waiver Program for Technology-Dependent Children	BY  Eileen M. Schoen Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
NUMBER:	99-89-13	
ISSUE DATE:	November 3, 1989	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	November 3, 1989	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce expansion of a federally approved model waiver program for technology-dependent children under age twenty-one. The program is named "The Michael Dallas Model Waiver for Technology-Dependent Children."

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all enrolled providers interested in providing services to this specific targeted group of clients.

BACKGROUND:

Through Public Law 97-35 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, the federal government permits states to waive certain Medicaid statutory requirements in order to provide home and community-based services to specific targeted groups of clients. Home and community based services are an alternative to institutional care.

In July 1987, Pennsylvania obtained approval from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to implement a waiver program for five technology-dependent children. Technology-dependent is defined as "continued dependence on a medical device to replace or compensate for a vital body function and to avert immediate threat to life." Due to an increasing need for home and community-based services for medically fragile children, the state sought and received approval in May 1989, to expand the waiver program to a total of one hundred children state-wide.

DISCUSSION:

For each child admitted to the Michael Dallas Model Waiver Program, the state must prove that the cost of providing home and community-based services will be less than, or no more than, the appropriate institutional care. Cost data relevant to skilled care in an acute hospital setting is used as a guideline for comparison of home care costs for the Waiver.

Medical assistance-eligible children enrolled in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), Health Insurance Organization (HIO/Health Pass) or the Medical Assistance Hospice Program are not eligible for the Department's model waiver program.

To qualify for waiver services each child must be:

- A Pennsylvania resident
- Technology-dependent
- In need of skilled care on a continuing, daily basis
- Under age twenty-one

Children in need of waiver services need not be eligible for medical assistance benefits at the time of application. According to HCFA's guidelines, children whose parental income precludes medical assistance eligibility may be reviewed for waiver placement through consideration of the child's resources only. (Private insurance benefits will be counted in financial determinations of need.)

In addition to all compensable fee schedule services, services provided through the model waiver include:

- Up to a maximum of sixteen hours per day home nursing care
- Case management

Medically necessary equipment/supplies

All waiver services must be approved by the administrative state agency, Department of Public Welfare (DPW). Fees for services will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with prevailing fees in each client's geographic location.

Providers of waiver services must be enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program. Reimbursement for services will be through the Department's automated Medical Assistance Management Information System (MAMIS). All invoices must be completed per regulatory requirements.

PROCEDURE:

A child may be referred for Michael Dallas Model Waiver services by writing to:

Department of Public Welfare
Office of Medical Assistance Programs
Division of Outpatient Operation
P.O. Box 8044
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8044
Attention: MDMW Administrator

or by calling Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.:

Waiver Program Administrator
(717) 782-6227

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Division of Outpatient Operations
P.O. Box 8044
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8044

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.