

	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE</b>		
	<b>NUMBER:</b> 23-97-01, 28-97-01, 29-97-01, 33-97-01	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> February 28, 1997	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> February 1, 1997
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Expansion of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver		<b>BY:</b>   <b>Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H.</b> Acting Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce the expansion of the PDA Waiver to 12 additional counties in Pennsylvania. This program gives a limited number of individuals who qualify for medical assistance (MA), the option of obtaining long term care services in a community based setting rather than receiving those services in nursing facilities. The PDA Waiver was first described in MA Bulletin Number 23-95-07/28-95-03/29-95-03/33-95-04/39-95-03 entitled, "Announcement of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver" issued October 16, 1995.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to the following providers enrolled in the MA Program: home health agencies, outpatient drug and alcohol clinics, outpatient psychiatric clinics, and psychiatric partial hospitalization facilities.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The PDA Waiver, as approved by the Health Care Financing Administration pursuant to Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U. S. C. 1396n), permits the Commonwealth to provide long term care services in the community as an alternative to providing those services in nursing facilities. Services provided under the waiver must cost no more than they would in institutions, and must be evaluated on a yearly basis for cost-effectiveness. The waiver has been granted for three years and may be renewed for an additional five-year period.

On November 1, 1995, the PDA Waiver was implemented initially in Philadelphia County with the intention of expanding to other sites dependent on the caseload build-up in Philadelphia. There are now placements available for the program to expand to the following counties: Allegheny, Bradford, Cambria, Delaware, Fayette, Greene, Montgomery, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Washington, and Westmoreland. The 12 sites will be served by seven local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). The original Waiver was amended and the effective date for the approval of the expansion is December 1, 1996.

The PDA Waiver target individuals, ages 60 and older, who meet the following criteria:

- Require the services provided by nursing facility, as determined by the current OPTIONS Assessment process.
- Can be safely served in the community at a cost not to exceed 80% of the average (Statewide) MA payment for nursing facility services in Pennsylvania. The 80% is based on a twelve-month average.
- Meet the financial eligibility requirements for participation in the MA Program. The county Assistance Office will make all financial eligibility determinations.
- Choose to receive services in their own homes or other community settings.
- Reside in a location where waiver services are available.

Each PDA Waiver recipient will have a care manager who will work with the recipient to develop safe and adequate care plans. The recipient will choose his/her provider for a particular service from a list of those who are certified to provide services in the PDA Waiver and are enrolled in the MA Program. The care manager will give the provider all pertinent information including an authorization number that will be needed to bill for services. Authorized amounts and bills will be for one-month periods.

Each recipient will be contacted by the care manager on a monthly basis to discuss his/her satisfaction with the services and providers. A full reassessment of the recipient's needs will be completed at least every six months and the care plan will be adjusted when appropriate. Part of the reassessment will be discussions with the recipient on service adequacy and appropriateness, and recipient satisfaction with the services provided. The recipient will also be asked if his or her preference for the PDA Waiver service has changed.

### **Services Provided Through the Waiver**

In addition to the services which are usually provided to MA recipients, the following services are available to recipients covered under the PDA Waiver:

- Home Support – Home Support Service activities are labor-intensive maintenance, cleaning, and home management activities provided to ensure a safe and sanitary environment for recipients. Home support activities do not include hands-on care related to a client's personal hygiene or functional activities of daily living.
- Home Health Services - Home Health Services include home health aide, nursing care (skilled and private duty), occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and respiratory therapy provided to an individual to enable him/her to remain in the community. These professionals must be available to meet and work as a team in their approach to the client's care. Duration and scope of the services are limited only by what has been authorized in the plan of care.
- Personal Care Services – Personal Care Services include assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, and activities of daily living. May include assistance with preparation of meals, but does not include the cost of the meals themselves. When specified in the plan of care, this service may also include such housekeeping chores as bed making, dusting and vacuuming, which are essential to the health and welfare of the recipient.
- Respite Care – Respite Care services are given to individuals unable to care for themselves; provided on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care.
- Older Adult Daily Living Centers – Older Adult Daily Living Centers' services are provided or arranged outside of a person's home to assist in meeting the recipient's needs; including personal care, social, nutritional, health and educational. Health and educational needs may include the following: nutrition education; personal care issues, such as incontinence training; safety training, such as transfer techniques; and issues regarding general wellness. These are provided, as appropriate for each recipient, through a planned program of social, educational, recreational, therapeutic, rehabilitative and developmental activities. The term includes services provided to persons whose needs are such that, absent the waiver, they would be met in a long-term care facility. Meals provided as part of these services shall not constitute a "full nutritional regimen."
- Transportation – Transportation services are offered in order to enable recipients to gain access to waiver and other community services and resources, required by the plan of care.
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies – Specialized medical equipment and supplies include devices, controls, or appliances, specified in the plan of care, which enable recipients to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living, or to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live. Also includes items necessary for life support, ancillary supplies and equipment necessary to the proper functioning of such items, and durable and non-durable medical equipment not available under the Medicaid State Plan.
- Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) – PERS is an electronic device which enables certain high-risk patients to secure help in the event of an emergency.
- Companion – Companion services include non-medical care, supervision and socialization, provided to a functionally impaired adult. Companions may assist the individual with such tasks as meal preparation, laundry, shopping and light housekeeping duties. This is not hands-on medical care.
- Home Delivered Meals – The Home Delivered Meal Service provides meals that meet the 1/3 RDA requirements to people in their homes. Individuals may receive more than one meal per day but they cannot receive meals that constitute a "full nutritional regimen" (three meals per day).
- Counseling – Counseling services include a broad array of health and mental health related counseling services to include but not be limited to the following: problem solving and coping skills, nutrition education, counseling and/or diet instruction, music therapy, alcoholism, drug dependency, individual/marital/family stress, family problems including situations of abuse or neglect, and detection and treatment of depression and other mental health conditions.

- **Environmental Modifications** – Environmental Modifications are those physical adaptations to the home, required by the recipient’s plan of care, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home and without which, the recipient would require institutionalization. Such adaptations may include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems which are necessary for the welfare of the recipient, but shall exclude those adaptations or improvements to the home which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the waiver client, such as carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning, etc. All services shall be provided in accordance with applicable State or local building codes.
- **Attendant Care** – Attendant Care is in-home personal care of eligible, physically impaired individuals who primarily require “hands-on” assistance in carrying out basic activities of daily living in order to live in the community.
- **Physician’s Services** – Physician’s services will be provided, except that the limitations in the State Plan will not apply. These services will be provided under the State Plan until the Plan limitations have been reached.

**Next Step:**

Beginning February 1, 1997, PDA Waiver services will be implemented in the following counties: Allegheny, Bradford, Cambria, Delaware, Fayette, Greene, Montgomery, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Washington, and Westmoreland. As the PDA Waiver application is amended and approved, and depending upon the rate of caseload build-up in these counties, additional sites may be considered in the 1997-98 fiscal year.

If your agency or business provides services in these counties, and if you wish to provide services covered under the PDA Waiver, you must go through a certification process. This process is explained in a separate bulletin entitled “Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver Certification Process” effective February 1, 1997, although you may contact you local Area Agency on Aging \* for additional information. You will receive a bulletin entitled, “Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver Program Billing Instructions” effective February 1, 1997.

<b>* County</b>	<b>Area Agency on Aging</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
Allegheny	Department of Aging Allegheny County	412/350-4234
Montgomery	Montgomery County Aging and Adult Services	610/278-3601
Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga	Area Agency on Aging for Tioga/Bradford/Susquehanna/ Sullivan Counties	1-800-982-4346
Cambria	Cambria County Area Agency on Aging	814/472-5580
Delaware	County of Delaware Services of the Aging	610/713-2100
Washington, Fayette, Greene	Southwestern PA AAA, Inc.	412/684-9000 Ext. 4524
Westmoreland	Area Agency on Aging of Westmoreland County	412/830-4444

**KEEP THIS BULLETIN AND ALL BULLETINS RELATING TO THE PDA WAIVER WITH YOUR HANDBOOK FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**  
 The appropriate toll-free inquiry line for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).