	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN **COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE**		
	NUMBER: 01-98-16, 05-98-05, 18-98-03, 19-98-09, 55-98-04	**ISSUE DATE**: November 17, 1998	**EFFECTIVE DATE**: October 1, 1998
SUBJECT: Statewide Expansion of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver		**BY:** **Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H.** Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce the statewide expansion of the PDA Waiver 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 01-95-17/05-95-04/18-95-01/19-95-06 entitled, “Announcement of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver” issued on October 16, 1995.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to the following providers enrolled in the MA Program: physicians, medical suppliers, ambulance companies, pharmacies, and PDA Waiver providers.

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.

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. The original Waiver has now been amended to expand statewide and the effective date for the approval of this expansion is October 1, 1998.

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

- Has been assessed as being Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible (NFCE) as determined by the current OPTIONS Assessment process.
- Can be appropriately 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.

Each PDA Waiver recipient will have a care manager who will work with the recipient to develop appropriate 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 no 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, 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 bedmaking, 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 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 to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies 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.

- Personal Assistance Services (PAS) – PAS 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 October 1, 1998, PDA Waiver services will be implemented statewide. You will be enrolled automatically into the PDA Waiver. Specific billing Instructions can be found in the MA Bulletin entitled, "Pennsylvania Department Of Aging (PDA) Waiver Program Billing Instructions," effective October 1,
1998.

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.