

February 13, 2018

Service Coordinators (Zone 2):

Community HealthChoices will change the way some OBRA Waiver participants get Medical Assistance (Medicaid) services and we need your help.

In January 2019, Pennsylvania will implement Community HealthChoices (CHC) in the Southeast Zone. CHC is a program that will provide physical health care and Medicaid waiver services through one managed care plan chosen by the participant.

All Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) waivers/programs except the OBRA Waiver and the Act 150 Program will be included in CHC. The OBRA Waiver will remain open to continue to provide services to participants who meet the following criteria:

- Intermediate care facility for persons with other related conditions (ICF/ORC) level of care between 18 and 59 years of age.
- Nursing facility clinically eligible (NFCE) level of care *and* between 18 and 20 years of age.

While the OBRA Waiver currently has an ICF/ORC level of care eligibility requirement, part of the CHC transition plan involves an assessment of OBRA Waiver participants to ensure they are enrolled in the appropriate waiver. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) will complete a level of care determination (LCD) assessment to determine whether the participant qualifies for CHC.

How will the LCD assessment be conducted?

If a participant had an LCD completed prior to November 17, 2017, they will need a new LCD. Any participant that had an LCD completed on or after November 17, 2017 will not need a new LCD.

The LCD involves two main components:

1. an assessment, which is face-to-face meeting in the person's home with the local AAA; and
2. completion of a physician certification (PC) form by the participant's doctor.

That is where you come in:

You, as the person's service coordinator (SC), will be responsible to coordinate the completion of the PC form for all Zone 2 OBRA participants on your waiver caseload. We also need your help in answering any questions participants and family members have about CHC and the LCD process.

DHS will send a letter to the OBRA Waiver participants on the attached list on February 20, 2018. Please wait to contact participants regarding their PC until after February 26, 2018.

What is the PC process?

You are responsible send the attached PC form to participants' physicians for completion using the attached Physician Communication.

All completed PCs should be sent to the appropriate AAA by April 13, 2018. It is critical that all PCs be completed and submitted to AAAs in a timely fashion as LCDs cannot be finalized without consideration of this important input from the participant's physician.

If you have difficulty in obtaining PCs from physicians, take the following steps in progressive order:

- work with the participant's physician's office.
- request assistance from the HealthChoices managed care organization special needs coordinator or contact Fee-for-Service, whichever is appropriate based on the participant's health plan (see attachment for contact information).
- contact the OLTL Participant Helpline Monday through Friday between 9 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 4 pm at 800-757-5042 or email RA-PWCHCWaiverProTra@pa.gov.

Note that additional information on the above steps will be shared during the webinars that are mentioned later in this communication.

When should the assessment be done?

LCD assessments must be done by May 13, 2018. **All PCs must be completed and submitted to AAAs by April 13, 2018.**

What happens after the assessment?

After final LCDs are received, the determinations will be documented in the Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS) by OLTL so that participant eligibility information is up-to-date. The department will also send a letter with the results of the assessment to the participant. The letter will inform participants of how they will receive services, either through the OBRA Waiver or through CHC. This letter will also include the participant's appeal rights.

If the person is eligible for CHC, he or she will be moved to CHC effective January 1, 2019.

Questions?

All Zone 2 SCEs that serve OBRA Waiver participants should plan to attend a webinar that provides additional information about the transition to CHC and LCD and the PC process. The following dates and times have been scheduled for SCE webinars:

- February 20, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. Please register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4347739843593803779>
- February 22, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. Please register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1286956757586885379>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

A recording of the webinar will be posted at the link below a few days after the presentation for any SCs who are unable to participate in the live airing:
<http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/info/resources/publications/community/index.htm>

You may also use the following contacts for help with any questions:

- call the OLTL Participant Helpline Monday through Friday at 800-757-5042 from 9 am – 12 pm and 1 pm – 4 pm or
- email RA-PWCHCWaiverProTra@pa.gov

Also included, you will find a fact sheet that provides more information on CHC. Thank you for your assistance in this very important step in the CHC transition process.

Respectfully,



Kevin Hancock
Acting Deputy Secretary

Encl: CHC Fact Sheet
Participant Communication
Participant List
Physician Certification
Physician Communication
CHC Special Needs Flyer