

February 23, 2018

Area Agency on Aging Director (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.

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 ages 18 and 59.
- Nursing facility clinically eligible (NFCE) level of care *and* between 18 and 20 years of age.

If someone is currently enrolled in the OBRA waiver, the person may be eligible for CHC. We need to do a level of care determination (LCD) to see if the participant qualifies for CHC.

That is where you come in:

In order to ensure we have up-to date level of care information on all OBRA Waiver participants, we will need your help in completing the LCD.

A participant needs a new LCD if the person had a LCD completed prior to November 17, 2017. Attached is a list of all participants from your county who are in currently enrolled in the OBRA Waiver.

How will the LCD assessment be conducted?

Contacting Participants:

DHS will send a letter to the OBRA Waiver participants on the attached list on February 20, 2018. We have also contacted individuals' service coordinators to let them know about this process (copies enclosed). Please reach out to participants on or after February 26, 2018 to schedule the face-to-face LCD assessment.

If unable to reach participants, follow the procedures in the OLTL Bulletin #55-12-03, *Procedures and Timeframes Related to Performance of Level of Care Assessments and Independent Enrollment Broker Responsibilities*.

As a part of CHC eligibility determination for OBRA Waiver participants, the participant's service coordinator is responsible to ensure the physician's certification (PC) form is completed by the participant's doctor. Completed forms are to be submitted to the appropriate AAA no later than April 13, 2018 to ensure timely finalization of LCDs. The current PC form is attached for your reference.

Please note: you do not need to wait until you receive the completed PC from the participant's service coordinator to begin the LCD process.

All assessments should be finalized by May 13, 2018.

Results of the LCD:

Once the LCD has been completed, including the PC, please send an email with the following information to RA-PWCHCWaiverProTra@pa.gov for each participant on the list. The email should have the subject line "LCD".

- participant name;
- Medical Assistance (MA) ID number;
- SAMS ID number
- date of LCD assessment;
- results of the LCD assessment;
- results of the PC; and
- copy of the participant's PC.

For participants who had an LCD completed on or after November 17, 2017 forward the above information based on the last completed LCD that you have on file. [Information for multiple participants may be submitted together.](#)

What happens after the assessment?

Once we receive the results of the assessment, the department will send a letter with the results of the assessment to the individual. The letter will inform individuals of how they will receive services, either through the OBRA Waiver or through CHC.

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

Questions?

It is strongly recommended that AAAs attend a webinar that provides additional information about the transition to CHC and the LCD assessment process. The following dates and times have been scheduled for AAA webinars:

- February 27, 2018 at 1 p.m. Please register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7598174393201852417>
- February 27, 2018 at 2 p.m. Please register for the webinar at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4188683393467742465>

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

A recording of the webinar will be posted on the Department's YouTube channel a few days after the presentation for any AAAs who are unable to participate in the live airing.

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

- call the OLTL Participant Helpline at 800-757-5042 Monday through Friday between 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
SC Communication
Participant List
Physician Certification