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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

471 NAC 9

TITLE 471 NEBRASKA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICES

CHAPTER 9 HOME HEALTH AGENCIES

001. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY. These regulations govern services provided under the Medical Assistance Act, Nebraska Revised Statute (Neb. Rev. Stat.) §§ 68-901 et seq.

002. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions apply:

002.01 ADVANCED DIRECTIVE. A legal document, including, but not limited to, a living will, signed by a competent person, to provide guidance for medical and health-care decisions in the event the client becomes incapable to make such decisions.

002.02 HOME HEALTH AGENCY. A person or any legal entity which provides skilled nursing or minimum of one other therapeutic service as defined by the Department on a full-time, part-time, or intermittent basis to person in a place of temporary or permanent residence used as a the person's home.

002.03 HOME HEALTH SERVICES. Services provided to a client in the client's place of residence. The residence does not include a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or nursing facility.

003. PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS.

003.01 GENERAL PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS. Providers of home health services must comply with all applicable provider participation requirements codified in 471 Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) 2 and 3. In the event that participation requirements in 471 NAC 2 or 3 conflict with requirements outlined in this chapter, the participation requirements in this chapter will govern.

003.02 SPECIFIC PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS.

003.02(A) PLAN OF CARE AND TREATMENT RECORD. The home health agency must maintain a clinical record that includes the plan of care signed by the attending physician responsible for the client's care. The attending physician and home health agency personnel must review the total plan of care and treatment record at least every 60 days. The home health agency must maintain these records on all Medicaid clients and make them readily available upon the Department's request.

003.02(B) COST REPORTS. The home health agency must provide a cost report upon a request made by the Department.

004. SERVICES REQUIREMENTS.

004.01 GENERAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

004.01(A) MEDICAL NECESSITY. Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and medical supplies (DMEPOS) must meet the guidelines outlined in 471 NAC 7. In addition to the medical necessity criteria outlined in 471 NAC 1, all home health services must be:

- (i) Necessary to a continuing medical treatment plan;
- (ii) Prescribed by a licensed physician; and
- (iii) Recertified by the licensed physician at least every 60 days.

004.01(B) PRIOR AUTHORIZATION. Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and medical supplies (DMEPOS) must meet the requirements and procedures for prior authorization outlined in 471 NAC 7. All home health agency services must be authorized and the eligibility of the client must be verified by the home health agency. The Department or its designee may grant authorization of home health agency services. To request authorization, the home health agency must submit Form MS-72, Nebraska Home Health Prior Authorization, and submit a copy of the physician's order and the home health agency's plan of care. The plan of care must include:

- (i) The client's name, address, Medicaid identification number, and date of birth;
- (ii) The dates of the period covered, not exceeding 60 days;
- (iii) The diagnosis;
- (iv) The type and frequency of services;
- (v) The equipment and supplies needed;
- (vi) A brief, specific description of the client's needs and services provided;
- (vii) Any other pertinent documentation that justifies the medical necessity of the services; and
- (viii) A signature or verbal authorization from the physician at prior authorization submittal. Verbal authorizations must be signed by physician within 30 days.

004.01(C) ELIGIBILITY AND PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATION. To be eligible for home health services, the attending physician must certify that based on the client's medical condition, Home health services are medically necessary and appropriate services to be provided in the home.

004.01(D) FACE-TO-FACE VISIT. The physician must document a face-to-face encounter that is related to the primary reason the beneficiary requires home health services occurred no more than 90 days before or 30 days after the start of services.

004.01(E) SECOND VISIT ON SAME DAY. The medical necessity of a second visit on the same date of service must be documented.

004.01(F) SERVICES PROVIDED FOR CLIENTS ENROLLED IN NEBRASKA MEDICAID MANAGED CARE. See 471 NAC 1.

004.01(G) HEALTH CHECK SERVICES. See 471 NAC 33.

004.01(H) ADVANCE DIRECTIVES. Medicaid-participating home health agencies must comply with applicable state and federal requirements.

004.02 COVERED SERVICES. Medicaid covers the following home health agency services:

- (i) Skilled nursing services by:
 - (1) A registered nurse (RN); or
 - (2) A licensed practical nurse (LPN);
- (ii) Home health aide services;
- (iii) Physical therapy provided by a licensed physical therapist;
- (iv) Speech therapy provided by a licensed speech pathologist;
- (v) Occupational therapy provided by a licensed occupational therapist; and
- (vi) Durable medical equipment and medical supplies.

004.02(A) USE OF AUTHORIZED HOURS. A client who requires and is authorized to receive home health nursing services in the home setting may use their approved hours outside of the home during those hours when their normal life activities take them out of the home. The Department will not authorize any additional hours of nursing service beyond what would normally be authorized. If a client requests to receive nursing services to attend school or other activities outside the home, but does not need nursing services in the home, nursing services cannot be authorized.

004.02(B) HOME HEALTH AIDES. A home health aide may provide services to a client in the client's home to meet personal care needs resulting from the client's illness or disability. Skilled nursing visits are not a prerequisite for the provision of home health aide services. The services must be:

- (1) Necessary because the care is not available to the client without payment by Medicaid;
- (2) Necessary to continuing a plan of care;
- (3) Prescribed by a licensed physician;
- (4) Recertified by the licensed physician at least every 60 days; and
- (5) Supervised by a registered nurse.

004.02(B)(i) LIMITATION. For extended-hour aide services, the Department limits aide services to 56 hours a week. Department approval must be obtained for services in excess of 56 hours a week. The client's needs must be assessed when developing the plan of care to determine whether the needs can best be met by an aide visit or a minimum block of four hours of extended-hour aide services.

004.02(C) MEDICATIONS. Medicaid covers intravenous or intramuscular injections and intravenous feeding. Oral medications are covered only where the complexity of the medical condition and the number of drugs require a licensed nurse to monitor, detect and evaluate side effects. The complexity of the medical condition must be documented and submitted with the plan of care.

- 004.02(C)(i) PREFILLING INSULIN SYRINGES. The Department reimburses home health agencies for prefilling insulin syringes for blind or disabled diabetic clients who are unable to perform this task themselves and where there is no one else available to fill the insulin syringe on the client's behalf. The Department considers this a professional nursing service that must be provided only through a professional nurse visit.
- 004.02(C)(ii) VITAMIN B-12 INJECTIONS. Vitamin B-12 injections are covered initially once a week for a maximum of six weeks, and then once a month when maintenance is established for the treatment of pernicious anemia and other macrocytic anemias, and neuropathies associated with pernicious anemia.
- 004.02(D) ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR DIABETIC CLIENTS. Medicaid covers blood sugar testing and foot care for blind or disabled diabetic clients who are unable to perform this task themselves and where there is no one else available to perform the tasks on the client's behalf.
- 004.02(E) DECUBITUS AND SKIN DISORDERS. Covered when specific physician orders indicate that skilled care is necessary, requiring prescribed medications and treatment.
- 004.02(F) DRESSINGS. Medicaid covers application of dressings when aseptic technique and prescription medications are used.
- 004.02(G) COLOSTOMY, ILEOSTOMY, AND GASTROSTOMY. Covered during immediate postoperative time when maintenance care and control by the patient or family is being established. This includes the initial teaching. General maintenance care is not covered.
- 004.02(H) ENTEROSTOMAL THERAPY. Medicaid recognizes enterostomal therapy visits as a skilled nursing service.
- 004.02(I) ENEMAS AND REMOVAL OF IMPACTIONS. Medicaid covers enemas and removal of impactions when the complexity of the patient's condition establishes that the skills of a nurse are required.
- 004.02(J) BOWEL AND BLADDER TRAINING. Teaching skills and facts necessary to adhere to a specific formal regimen. General routine maintenance program or treating is not covered.
- 004.02(K) URETHRAL CATHETERS AND STERILE IRRIGATIONS. Insertions and changes when active urological problems are present or client is unable to do physician-ordered irrigations. Routine catheter maintenance care is not covered.
- 004.02(L) CASTS. Casts are covered if the physician's order evidences more complexity than routine or general supportive care.

004.02(M) DRAW OR COLLECTION OF LABORATORY SPECIMENS. Medicaid covers the collection of specimens only if based on the client's medical condition home health services are medically necessary and appropriate services to be provided in the home.

004.02(N) OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION. Medicaid covers observation and evaluation requiring the furnishing of a skilled service for an unstable condition. An unstable condition is evidenced by the presence of one of the following conditions:

- (i) A recent acute episode;
- (ii) A well-documented history of noncompliance without nursing intervention; or
- (iii) A significant high probability that complications would arise without the skilled supervision of the treatment program on an intermittent basis.

004.02(O) TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES. Medicaid limits postpartum visits for teaching and training to two visits. The necessity of further visits must be justified by additional documentation evidencing extenuating circumstances that create the need beyond two visits. Medicaid covers skilled nursing visits for teaching or training that require the skills or knowledge of a nurse. The client must have a medical condition that has been diagnosed and treated by a physician, and there must be a physician's order for the specific teaching and training. Visits are covered on an individual basis. The provider must maintain specific documentation of both the need for the teaching or training, and the teaching or training provided. Documentation must be submitted along with the plan of care. Teaching or training can occur in the following areas:

- (i) Injections;
- (ii) Irrigating of a catheter;
- (iii) Care of ostomy;
- (iv) Administration of medical gases;
- (v) Respiratory treatment;
- (vi) Preparation and following a therapeutic diet;
- (vii) Application of dressing to wounds involving prescription medications and aseptic techniques;
- (viii) Bladder training;
- (ix) Bowel training;
- (x) Use of adaptive devices and special techniques when loss of function has occurred;
- (xi) Postpartum visits;
- (xii) Care of a bed-bound patient; and
- (xiii) Performance of body transfer activities.

004.02(P) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND SPEECH, HEARING, AND LANGUAGE THERAPY. Medicaid covers occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech, hearing, and language therapy as a home health agency service only when the services meet the requirements in accordance with 471 NAC 14 and 23.

004.02(Q) DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PROSTHETICS, ORTHOTICS, AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES (DMEPOS). Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and medical supplies provided by a home health agency must meet all requirements outlined in 471 NAC 7.

004.02(R) EXTENDED-HOUR NURSING SERVICES. Provision of extended-hour nursing services must be authorized by the Department or its designee. Extended-hour nursing services are authorized only when the client's care needs must be provided by skilled nursing personnel in the absence of the caregiver or parents. Children must have documented medical needs, which cannot be met by a traditional child care provider system. When providing extended-hour nursing care, the Department will authorize coverage for a maximum of 56 hours a week, depending upon the complexity of a client's care. A maximum of 12 hours may be approved in a 24-hour period. Changes in the client's condition or schedule of the caregiver or parents may require a reevaluation of the approved nursing hours.

004.02(R)(i) NURSING COVERAGE AT NIGHT. Caregivers or families may be eligible for night hours if the client requires procedures on an ongoing basis throughout the night hours. As used in this chapter, night hours refers to the period after the client has gone to bed for the day. Day and evening hours refers to the period of time before the client goes to bed for the day. Night hours will be authorized only if the monitoring and treatments cannot be accomplished during day and evening hours. The medical necessity for monitoring and treatments during the night hours must be reflected in the physician's orders and nursing notes. If a scheduled night shift is cancelled by the agency, the caregiver or family may reschedule those hours with the home health agency within the next 24 hours. When that is not possible, they may reschedule the hours within the 48 hours following the missed shift.

004.03 NON-COVERED SERVICES.

004.03(A) MEDICATIONS. Medicaid does not cover injections that can be self-administered, drugs not considered an effective treatment for a condition given; and when a medical reason does not exist for providing the drug by injection rather than by mouth.

004.03(B) DECUBITUS AND SKIN DISORDERS. Medicaid does not cover preventative and palliative measures for minor decubiti, usually Stage I or Stage II.

004.03(C) TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES. Medicaid does not cover visits made solely to remind or emphasize the need to follow instructions or when services are duplicated.

004.03(D) DRESSINGS. Medicaid does not cover visits made to dress non-infected closed postoperative wounds or chronic controlled conditions.

004.03(E) STUDENT NURSES. Medicaid does not cover skilled nursing visits by student nurses who are enrolled in a school of nursing and not employed by the home health agency, unless accompanied by a registered nurse who is an employee of the home health agency.

005. BILLING AND PAYMENT FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES.

005.01 BILLING.

005.01(A) GENERAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS. Providers must comply with all applicable billing requirements codified in 471 NAC 3. In the event the individual billing requirements in 471 NAC Chapter 3 conflict with billing requirements outlined in this chapter, the individual billing requirements in this chapter will govern.

005.01(B) SPECIFIC BILLING REQUIREMENTS.

005.01(B)(i) BILLING INSTRUCTIONS. The provider must bill Medicaid, using the appropriate claim form or electronic format, in accordance with the billing instructions. The signed plan of care must be submitted with the claim. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) procedure codes used by Medicaid are listed in the Nebraska Medicaid Practitioner Fee Schedule. Durable medical equipment and medical supplies are billed under the home health agency provider number.

005.01(B)(ii) SUPERVISORY VISITS. Skilled nursing visits required for the supervision of licensed practical nurse (LPN) or aide services may not be billed as a skilled nursing visit. The cost of supervision is included in the payment for the licensed practical nurse (LPN) or aide service.

005.02 PAYMENT.

005.02(A) GENERAL PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS. Medicaid will reimburse the provider for services rendered in accordance with the applicable payment regulations codified in 471 NAC 3. In the event the individual payment regulations in 471 NAC 3 conflict with payment regulations outlined in this chapter, the individual payment regulations in this chapter will govern.

005.02(B) SPECIFIC PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS. Medicaid pays for medically prescribed and Department-approved home health agency services provided by Medicare-certified home health agencies.

005.02(B)(i) REIMBURSEMENT. Durable medical equipment and medical supplies are reimbursed according to the payment methodology outlined in 471 NAC 7. Medicaid pays for covered home health agency services at the lower of:

- (1) The provider's submitted charge; or
- (2) The allowable amount for each respective procedure in the Nebraska Medicaid Home Health Agency Fee Schedule in effect for that date of service.

005.02(B)(ii) MEDICARE COVERAGE. Medicare coverage is considered to be the primary source of payment for home health agency services for eligible individuals age 65 and older and for certain disabled beneficiaries. Medicaid does not make payment for services denied by Medicare for lack of medical necessity. Medicaid may cover services denied by Medicare for other reasons if the services are within the scope of Medicaid. Claims submitted to the Department for services provided to Medicare-eligible clients must be accompanied by documentation, which verifies the services are not covered by Medicare. To be covered by Medicaid, these services

must be provided in accordance with all requirements in limitations outlined in this chapter.

005.02(B)(iii) MEDICAL SUPPLIES. Payment for supplies normally carried in the nursing bag and incidental to the nursing visit is included in the per visit rate. This includes but is not limited to disposable needles and syringes, disposable gloves, applicators, tongue blades, cotton swabs, 4 x 4's, gauze, bandages. Medical supplies not normally carried in the nursing bag may be provided by pharmacies, medical suppliers, or the home health agency under requirements outlined in 471 NAC 7.

005.02(B)(iv) NURSING SERVICES, REGISTERED NURSE (RN) AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN), FOR ADULTS AGE 21 AND OLDER. In addition to the requirements and limitations outlined in 471 NAC 13, Medicaid applies the following limitations to skilled nursing services, for adults age 21 and older:

- (1) Per diem reimbursement for skilled nursing services for the care of ventilator-dependent clients must not exceed the average ventilator per diem of all Nebraska nursing facilities, which are providing that service. This average will be computed using nursing facility's ventilator interim rates that are effective January 1 of each year, and are applicable for that calendar year period; and
- (2) Per diem reimbursement for all other in-home skilled nursing service must not exceed the average case-mix per diem for the Extensive Special Care 2 case-mix reimbursement level. This average will be computed using the Extensive Special Care 2 case-mix nursing facility interim rates, which are effective January 1 of each year, and applicable for that calendar year period.

005.02(B)(v) EXTENDED HOME HEALTH HIGH-TECH RATES. High-tech hourly rates are approved when clients require:

- (1) Ventilator care;
- (2) Tracheostomy care that involves frequent suctioning and monitoring; or
- (3) Care and observation of unstable, complex medical conditions requiring advanced nursing knowledge and skills.