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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

471 NAC 13

TITLE 471 NEBRASKA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICES

CHAPTER 13 NURSING SERVICES

001. SCOPE AND AUTHORITY. The regulations govern the services provided under Nebraska's Medicaid program as defined by Nebraska Revised Statute §§ 68-901 et seq.

002. DEFINITIONS. The following definitions apply:

002.01 SKILLED NURSING SERVICE. Skilled nursing services are those services provided by a private duty nurse (PDN) in a client's home or current living arrangement. Skilled nursing services do not include services provided in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or nursing facility.

003. PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS.

003.01 GENERAL PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS. To participate in Medicaid, providers of nursing services must comply with all applicable provider participation requirements codified in Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC) Titles 471, 473, 480, and 482. In the event that provider requirements in 471 NAC 2 conflict with requirements outlined in this 471 NAC 13, the individual provider participation requirements in 471 NAC 13 will govern.

003.02 SPECIFIC PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS.

003.02(A) LICENSING. Providers of private-duty nursing services must be licensed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, or by the appropriate licensing agency of the state in which they practice, as an individual registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN).

003.02(B) PROVIDER DOCUMENTATION. The private-duty nurse must maintain records to document services provided and the time worked for which payment is claimed. These records must be available to the Department upon the Department's request. Records must be retained for no fewer than six years for audit purposes. Records must include:

- (i) Current, signed physician's orders for the care provided;
- (ii) Assessment of the client's health status;
- (iii) Plan of Care;
- (iv) Nurse's notes documenting the care provided; and
- (v) Time sheets documenting the date and times that care was provided.

003.02(C) CLIENT RECORDS. The private-duty nurse must maintain a medical record in the client's home or current living arrangement which includes the Form MS-81: Certification and Plan of Care For Private-Duty Nursing.

003.02(D) MULTIPLE REGISTERED NURSE (RN) AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN) PROVIDERS. When more than one registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) is providing skilled nursing services for a client, the providers and client must determine which registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) will be the coordinator of services. The coordinator must complete the Form MS-81: Certification and Plan of Care For Private-Duty Nursing, obtaining physician orders, obtaining authorization for providing services, and making copies available to the other providers.

004. SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

004.01 GENERAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

004.01(A) MEDICAL NECESSITY. The Department incorporates the medical necessity requirements outlined in 471 NAC 1 as if fully rewritten herein. Services and supplies that do not meet the requirements in 471 NAC 1 are not covered.

004.01(A)(i) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. All skilled nursing services must be:

- (1) Necessary to a continuing medical treatment plan;
- (2) Prescribed by a licensed physician; and
- (3) Recertified by the licensed physician at least every 60 days

004.01(B) AUTHORIZATION. All skilled nursing services must be authorized and the eligibility of the client must be verified by the provider. The Department or its designee may grant authorization of skilled nursing services. Providers must send requests for authorization electronically using the standard Health Care Services Review – Request for Review and Response transaction (ASC X 12N 278) or by submitting Form MS-81: Certification and Plan of Care For Private-Duty Nursing to the Medicaid designee. Requests must include the physician's order and the plan of care. The plan 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; and
 - (vii) Any other pertinent documentation which justifies the medical necessity of the services.
- (viii) The plan of care must be signed by or have verbal authorization from the physician at the time of prior authorization submittal. Verbal authorizations must be signed by the physician within 30 days.

004.01(C) ELIGIBILITY AND PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATION. To be eligible for skilled nursing services, the attending physician must certify that based on the client's medical

condition, skilled nursing services are medically necessary and appropriate services to be provided in the home.

004.01(D) SECOND VISIT SAME DAY. The medical necessity of a second visit on the same date of service must be documented. Substantiating documentation must be submitted with MC-82N, or the request for prior authorization with the standard Health Care Claim: Professional Transaction (ASC X12N 837).

004.02 COVERED SERVICES. The Department covers medically necessary skilled nursing services when ordered by the client's physician.

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 take them out of the home. The Department will not authorize any additional hours of nursing service beyond what would normally be authorized to cover the client's need for medically necessary and appropriate services provided in the home. If a client requests or requires nursing services to attend school or other activities outside the home, but does not need nursing services in the home during those hours, nursing services will not be authorized.

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

004.02(B)(i) PREFILLING INSULIN SYRINGES. The Department reimburses private duty nurses 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 skilled nursing service which may be provided only through a skilled nurse visit.

004.02(B)(ii) VITAMIN B-12 INJECTIONS. The Department covers injections 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 neuro pathies associated with pernicious anemia.

004.02(C) ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR DIABETIC CLIENTS. Medicaid covers blood sugar testing and foot care for blind or disabled clients who are unable to perform this task themselves and where there is no one else available to perform the task on the client's behalf.

004.02(D) DECUBITUS AND SKIN DISORDERS. The Department covers this service when specific physician orders indicate that skilled nursing care is necessary, requiring prescribed medications and treatment.

004.02(E) DRESSINGS. The Department covers application of dressings when aseptic technique and prescription medications are used.

004.02(F) COLOSTOMY, ILEOSTOMY, GASTROSTOMY. The Department covers colostomy, ileostomy, and gastrostomy during immediate postoperative time, including initial teaching, when maintenance care and control by the patient or family is being established.

004.02(G) ENTEROSTOMAL THERAPY. The Department recognizes enterostomal therapy visits as a skilled nursing service.

004.02(H) ENEMAS AND REMOVAL OF IMPACTIONS. The Department covers enemas and removal of impactions when the complexity of the condition of the patient establishes that the skills of a nurse are required.

004.02(I) BOWEL AND BLADDER TRAINING. The Department covers teaching skills and facts necessary to adhere to a specific formal regimen. General routine maintenance program or treating is not covered.

004.02(J) URETHRAL CATHETERS AND STERILE IRRIGATIONS. The Department covers insertions and changes when active urological problems are present or client is unable to do a physician-ordered irrigations. Routine catheter maintenance care is not covered.

004.02(K) OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION. The Department 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) An episode in the previous 60 days;
- (ii) A documented history of noncompliance without nursing intervention; or
- (iii) A significant probability that complications would arise within 60 days without the skilled supervision of the treatment program or an intermittent basis.

004.02(L) CASTS. The Department covers casts if the physician's order evidences more complexity than routine or general supportive care.

004.02(M) DRAW OR COLLECTION OF LABORATORY SPECIMENS. The Department covers the collection of laboratory specimens only if based on the client's medical condition.

004.02(N) TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES. The Department covers skilled nursing visits for teaching or training that require the skills or knowledge of a nurse. The Department limits postpartum visits for teaching and training to two visits. The necessity of further visits must be justified by additional documentation evidencing extenuating circumstances which create the need beyond two visits. 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 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 when bowel incontinency exists;
- (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(O) 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 that 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 with written verification.

004.02(O)(i) NURSING COVERAGE AT NIGHT. Caregivers or families may be eligible for night hours if the client requires skilled 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 or 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 provider, the caregiver or family may reschedule those hours with the provider 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. The Department does not cover skilled nursing services when the private duty nurse (PDN) is an employee of another provider and the services performed are the responsibility of that provider.

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

drugs for which a medical reason does not exist for providing the drug by injection rather than by mouth.

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

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

004.03(D) DRESSINGS. Visits made to dress non-infected closed postoperative wounds or chronic controlled conditions are not covered.

005. BILLING AND PAYMENT FOR NURSING SERVICES.

005.01 BILLING.

005.01(A) GENERAL BILLING REQUIREMENTS. Providers must comply with all applicable billing requirements codified in 471 NAC 2. In the event that the individual billing requirements in 471 NAC 2 conflict with billing requirement outlines in the 471 NAC 13, the individual billing requirements in 471 NAC 13 will govern.

005.01(B) SPECIFIC BILLING REQUIREMENTS.

005.01(B)(i) BILLING REQUIREMENTS. Registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) providers must submit electronically using the standard Health Care Claim Professional transaction (ASC X12N 837) or use Form MC-82N: Private Duty Nurse Claim Form. The signed plan of care must be submitted with the claim.

005.02 PAYMENT.

005.02(A) GENERAL PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS. Providers must comply with all applicable billing requirements codified in 471 NAC 2. In the event that individual billing requirements in 471 NAC 2 conflict with billing requirement outlines in this 471 NAC 13, the individual billing requirements in 471 NAC 13 will govern.

005.02(B) SPECIFIC PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS.

005.02(B)(i) REIMBURSEMENT. The Department pays for approved nursing services at the lower of:

- (1) The submitted charge; or
- (2) The maximum allowable fee as established by the Department in the Nebraska Medicaid Nursing Services Fee Schedule in effect for that date of service.

005.02(B)(ii) SKILLED NURSING SERVICES FOR ADULTS AGE 21 AND OLDER. The Department applies the following limitations to skilled nursing services for adults age 21 and older:

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- (1) Per diem reimbursement for skilled nursing services for the care of ventilator dependent clients will not exceed the average ventilator per diem of all Nebraska nursing facilities which are providing that service. This average will be computed using facility's ventilator interim rates which 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 services will 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. If determined by the Department to be medically necessary, the per diem reimbursement may exceed this maximum for a short period of time. However, in these cases, the 30-day average of the in-home nursing per diems will not exceed the maximum above. The 30 days are defined to include the days which are paid in excess of the maximum plus those days immediately following, totaling 30.