

## **NC Medicaid Clinical Policy Clarification on CAP/C Travel**

We have heard from some beneficiaries expressing concern about the NC Medicaid CAP/C travel policy. The statement below is intended to clarify the policy.

Medicaid CAP/C staff is convening stakeholder engagement groups to review the CAP/C clinical coverage policy in specific areas to determine if the policy is clear and concise, and to determine if language leaves possible interpretation that the policy unintentionally creates barriers for the beneficiary to access the service or providers to render the service. The work groups will continue until the end of September to finalize their recommendations. No changes to current policy have been implemented since the CMS approval of the CAP/C on March 1, 2017, and the method in which respite was designed has not changed.

We agree that CAP/C is a home and community-based services waiver program that promotes community inclusion and integration. This person-centered approach to care planning allows for accommodation with what is important “for” the person receiving CAP/C and their family as well as what is important “to” them. Because it is a waiver, there is flexibility in structure and service delivery that may not be accommodated in regular state plan services.

Each participant in the CAP/C waiver is permitted to plan and participate in vacation time with his or her family regardless of the location of the vacation, in or outside of North Carolina (regulatory requirements must be met when a vacation is planned outside of North Carolina). Families are permitted to use their in-home care provider for up to 14 days per year for vacation time. A plan revision for approval is not required; the parent, assigned case manager and the provider agency simply coordinate and arrange for care coverage during the vacation time. So not to exhaust a family’s respite time and to correctly utilize the appropriate waiver service, respite hours are not authorized during planned and unplanned vacations; in-home aide or pediatric nurse hours are authorized and are permitted to be used.

Children receiving CAP/C services who are also receiving state plan private duty nursing (PDN) are eligible to travel with their families and receive PDN services when a physician indicates the child is able to travel safely and nursing care is needed during this therapeutic leave time. Planning is required by the physician and private duty nursing agency to obtain the physician’s order and ensure that the nurse is licensed to deliver care in North Carolina.

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