

# Private Duty Nursing

## A Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service

Private Duty Nursing (PDN) is substantial, complex and continuous skilled nursing care that is authorized to supplement the care provided by a beneficiary's trained, informal caregiver. Eligible beneficiaries must live in a private primary residence with at least one trained, informal caregiver who may provide direct care to the beneficiary during planned and unplanned absences of PDN staff. PDN services must be medically appropriate and medically necessary.

Beneficiaries under 21 years of age may qualify for PDN under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) provision if the service is medically necessary health care to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified during NC Medicaid review.

### PRIOR APPROVAL

Prior approval is required for Medicaid State Plan PDN services. NC Medicaid authorizes hours on a weekly basis. Hours not used within a week cannot be carried over to a following week. If a beneficiary elects to change PDN agencies, the new agency must obtain prior approval from NC Medicaid.

When more than one agency is providing PDN services, each agency is authorized a set number of hours per week. If the beneficiary chooses to change the number of hours provided by one or more of the agencies, prior approval must also be obtained. PDN providers submit the requests for prior approval to NC Medicaid.

### NURSE RESPITE

Respite is a service covered through the Community Alternative Program for Children (CAP/C) waiver. It is not a service authorized through the PDN program. Beneficiaries under 21 years of age who are enrolled in CAP/C can receive up to 720 hours of nurse respite services from July 1 through June 30 each year while enrolled in the CAP/C program. It is the responsibility of the CAP/C case manager to monitor nurse respite hours. The CAP/C case manager and the PDN provider are responsible for a monthly review to ensure that nurse respite services are provided as authorized.

### DETERMINATION OF WEEKLY STATE PLAN PDN HOURS

Eligibility for Medicaid State Plan State PDN services is determined by the comprehensive review of medical information and other required documentation submitted by the PDN agency on your behalf. This includes primary medical diagnosis(es), physician's orders, nursing interventions, dependence on life-sustaining medical technology, verification of employment, and nursing hours provided in the school, if applicable, to determine the number of eligible weekly hours. It is important to let your PDN provider know if:

- The work schedule of an informal caregiver changes
- A school aged child (3-20 years old) starts public or private school or stops attending school
- The beneficiary's health status significantly improves or declines
- Private health insurance is paying for nursing care in the home, or if private health insurance stops paying for nursing care in the home

All PDN beneficiaries, regardless of age, can use more than one PDN agency to achieve coverage of the hours approved by NC Medicaid, if needed.

