

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

NC Medicaid State Plan PDN and School-Provided Nursing Hours

Private Duty Nursing (PDN) is substantial, complex, and continuous skilled nursing care provided in the home for medically fragile Medicaid beneficiaries. This service is considered supplemental to the care provided by a beneficiary's family or designated caregivers. Prior approval (PA) is required for PDN services and is granted based on the beneficiary's medical necessity and fragility.

NC MEDICAID STATE PLAN PDN

- NC Medicaid State Plan PDN authorizes weekly PDN hours a child receives in the home.
- Approval of hours is based on the child's current medical condition, level of technology dependency, amount and frequency of specialized, skilled interventions required and caregiver availability.
- If nursing hours are approved for school coverage, these hours are reported to NC Medicaid and may or may not be a part of the total PDN home hours when the child is out of school.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES

- The Local Education Agency (LEA) determines the amount of nursing services provided while the child is in school.
- Nursing services are identified as a need in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- PDN providers are required to disclose to NC Medicaid the number of hours provided in the school, by whom, and if the LEA is enrolled as a Medicaid provider.

Note: If a school district does not have the funding to provide skilled nursing in the school or if a child attends a non-public school, State Plan PDN may cover skilled nursing in the school through the PDN prior approval process.

ADJUSTMENT OF HOURS

- The total number of weekly PDN and school nursing hours cannot exceed the PDN clinical coverage policy limit of 112 hours per week. Requests in excess of this amount require an EPSDT review by the NC Medicaid chief medical officer.

Example #1: Child has partially available caregiver (during school hours); 100 hours/week of PDN approved in home based on medical necessity. School system provides 40 hours/week when school is in session, and PDN provides 60 hours in the home. When school is out, PDN provides 100 hours/week of in-home care.

Maximum State Plan PDN hours are always 100 hours/week because the child has a partially available caregiver in the home who is working throughout the year when school is in or out of session.

Example #2: Child has fully available caregiver; 50 hours/week of PDN are approved in home based on medical necessity. School system provides 40 hours/week when school is in session and PDN provides 50 hours in the home. When school is out, PDN provides 50 hours/week of in-home care.

Maximum state plan PDN hours are 90 hours/week when in school and 50 hours/week when out of school because the child has a fully available caregiver in the home.

