



OLTL Updates MLTSS Subcommittee

February 1, 2023

Agenda

- SNAP Emergency Allotment Reductions
- Appendix K Waiver & Comprehensive Needs Assessments

SNAP Emergency Allotment Reductions

SNAP Reductions

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - President Biden signed the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act late last year. **This new law ends SNAP Emergency Allotments in February of 2023** after almost three years of issuance. The Emergency Allotments boosted all SNAP households benefit levels by at least \$95 and older adult households had some of the largest increases and will subsequently have some of the greatest decreases as a result of the policy ending.
 - Individuals receiving Social Security received an 8.7% COLA, which now renders approximately 5,000 – 20,000 ineligible for SNAP. Individuals will be disenrolled in February.
 - Many of those impacted and losing their SNAP benefits are older adults.
 - Mailings sent by the Office of Income Maintenance to impacted individuals.
 - [SNAP-CARES Act \(pa.gov\)](#)

Appendix K Waiver & Comprehensive Needs Amendments

Appendix K Waiver Amend.

- Since March 6, 2020, the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) has been operating under the Appendix K, Emergency Preparedness and Response amendment approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Appendix K allowed temporary changes to the Community HealthChoices and OBRA 1915(c) waivers in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. These flexibilities were extended to the Act 150 Program.
- OLTL is planning to end these flexibilities on April 30th.

Appendix K Flexibility	Guidance
Service Limitations	Adult Daily Living – Long-Term or Continuous Nursing may no longer be provided temporarily as a separate service at the same time that Adult Daily Living Services are provided.
	Residential Habilitation – Long-Term or Continuous Nursing may no longer be provided temporarily as a separate service at the same time that Residential Habilitation is provided.
Respite	Respite in a licensed facility may no longer be extended beyond 29 consecutive days. Previously approved extensions may not go beyond April 30, 2023.
Personal Assistance Services (Agency and Participant-Directed) and Participant-Directed Community Supports	Spouses, legal guardians, representative payees and persons with power of attorney may no longer serve as paid direct care workers. Those previously approved as direct care workers will not be paid for hours worked after April 30, 2023.

Appendix K Waiver Amend.

Appendix K Flexibility	Guidance
Expanded Settings Where Services May Be Provided	Residential Habilitation and Structured Day Habilitation Services may no longer be provided to participants by Residential Habilitation and Structured Day Habilitation staff in private homes.
	Adult Daily Living Services may no longer be provided to participants by Adult Daily Living staff in private homes.
	Adult Daily Living Services may no longer be provided remotely.
	Structured Day Habilitation may no longer be provided remotely using phone or video conferencing.
	Cognitive Rehabilitation and Behavior Therapy may no longer be provided remotely using phone or video conferencing.
	Counseling Services may no longer be provided remotely using phone or video conferencing.

Appendix K Waiver Amend.

Appendix K Flexibility	Guidance
Modification of Worker Qualifications	Residential Habilitation, Structured Day Habilitation Services, Adult Daily Living, and Personal Assistance Services – Individual staff members who are qualified to provide any one of these services may no longer be reassigned to provide Residential Habilitation, Structured Day Habilitation Services, Adult Daily Living, and Personal Assistance Services.
Initial Level of Care Assessments	Initial level of care assessments using the FED that take place in the participant’s home must be conducted face-to-face. Initial level of care assessments using the FED that take place in nursing facilities may no longer be conducted remotely using phone or video conferencing.
Needs Assessments/ Reassessments	Assessments and Reassessments, including the comprehensive needs assessment, must be conducted face-to-face.
Person-Centered Service Planning/Service Coordination	Service Coordinators must monitor participants and PCSPs through face-to-face contacts. Person-Centered Planning Team (PCPT) meetings and PCSP development must be conducted face-to-face.
Retainer Payments to Address Emergency Related Issues	Retainer payments to direct care workers providing Personal Assistance Services in both the agency and participant-directed models may no longer be made.

Questions?

