

Medically Complex Condition (MCC) Life Sharing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
Version 2

\*All questions that are highlighted in light yellow are new to the FAQ.

Question		Answer
<b>General</b>		
1.	<b>Are there two different Life Sharing services now? One for individuals with a MCC and one for individuals who do not have a MCC?</b>	There is only one Life Sharing service. There are different provider qualifications, rates, provider specialty codes, and procedure codes for providers who render the Life Sharing service to individuals with a MCC.
2.	<b>How can a Life Sharing host family which provides services to an individual with a MCC receive a "break" from providing care?</b>	<p>The Life Sharing provider has the option of offering Respite or substitute care to any Life Sharing host family, including a host family providing Life Sharing to an individual with a MCC. If additional services or supports are needed, services under EPSDT should be explored.</p> <p>The ISP team is encouraged to explore who can be involved in the individual's life to help support the individual and their family with their needs. The Charting the LifeCourse framework, especially the principle of Integrated Services and Supports Across the LifeCourse, can help with the conversation. Please visit the following link for LifeCourse information:  <a href="#">LifeCourse Nexus – Exchange Knowledge   Build Capacity   Engage Collaboratively (lifecoursetools.com)</a></p>
<b>Aging Out</b>		
3.	<b>What happens when a child with a medically complex condition (does not have an intellectual disability or autism) turns the age of 22? Are they still eligible to remain in their ODP waiver?</b>	As the waiver currently states, "Individuals who have a developmental disability due to a MCC have the option to enroll in the waiver only if they are age 0 to 21. Once a participant reaches age 22, the participant will be given the option to remain enrolled in the waiver after age 22 or transition to another program."
<b>Billing</b>		
4.	<b>Is there a discrete specialty code for MCC Life Sharing?</b>	Providers will enroll with two specialties for MCC Life Sharing:

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		<p>-Licensed Medical Complexity Life Sharing: Provider Type 52 - Community Residential Rehabilitation -Specialty 522 - Family Living Homes – 6500 -Specialty 584 – Medically Complex</p> <p>Unlicensed Medical Complex Life Sharing - this would be utilized when a relative is providing Life Sharing service:</p> <p>-Provider Type 52 - Community Residential Rehabilitation -Specialty 524 - Unlicensed -Specialty 584 – Medially Complex</p>
5.	<b>If an individual has already moved into the Life Sharing home and the provider is waiting on the proper specialty codes, can the provider backdate billing to the date when the provider was qualified?</b>	Yes, the individual who is receiving Life Sharing services, can be authorized for the start date of Life Sharing services once the specialty codes are received. The Life Sharing provider must ensure the service was provided in accordance with ODP requirements (including completion of service notes and other required documentation).
<b>Documentation</b>		
6.	<b>How do you document eligibility in the Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS)? Where can Administrative Entities (AEs) document the information regarding verification of MCC?</b>	<p>F89 is used for Unspecified disorder of psychological development ICF/ORC DD. For MCC please use the following from the drop downs in HCSIS: Individual &gt; Demographics &gt; Diagnosis: F89 for Unspecified disorder of psychological development Individual &gt; Eligibility &gt; LOC: ICF/ORC DD</p> <p>As stated in Communication 23-036, the AE can document this in the “ELIG. DETERMINATION” section of HCSIS, add in the dropdown “ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION” an “ANNUAL MEDICAL EVALUATION” and note in the comments that the individual has a completed DP1090 and that the AE has verified the form.</p>
<b>Eligibility</b>		

<b>Question</b>		<b>Answer</b>
7.	<b>If the individual meets the MCC eligibility requirements and is verified through the DP1090 form, will the provider need to meet the qualifications for MCC?</b>	Please see "Section 3" of ODP Announcement 23-036, as this information is also stated there. If an individual is not currently receiving Life Sharing services, but will be (they have a verified MCC DP1090 form completed), the provider must be qualified to provide the MCC Life Sharing service.
8.	<b>What happens when an individual's MCC changes in a way that could impact their waiver eligibility?</b>	If during a level of care reevaluation, an AE determines that an individual no longer meets eligibility criteria, the AE will work with the individual to transition to other services and support outside of ODP.
9.	<b>To remain eligible for the waivers, is there a required number of hours/times a month that an individual with MCC must use their medical technology?</b>	There is no frequency requirement for the use of technology.
<b>Licensing</b>		
10.	<b>Would MCC Life Sharing occur in a licensed or unlicensed home?</b>	Life Sharing can be provided in licensed and unlicensed homes, regardless if the individual has a MCC.
11.	<b>Can a regulatory requirement be "waived" to support an individual with a MCC if they live with their family and the licensing standards seem impossible to meet (e.g., a room is too small or there are too many other family members in the home)? This would help the individual remain with their family. Can any of the physical site requirements, 6500.61-84 be waived based on the physical health or medical needs of the individual?</b>	Licensing requirements may not apply if the individual is living in a relative's home. Please see the Life Sharing service definition for information about who is considered a relative.  For Life Sharing homes that are subject to licensure, Life Sharing providers have the option to request a waiver of regulations as outlined in 55 Pa. Code §6500.12 and ODP Bulletin 00-22-02.
<b>Provider Qualifications / Life Sharing Host Family Qualifications</b>		
12.	<b>If an individual is already receiving Life Sharing, but with the waiver changes may now be considered to have a MCC, does the provider</b>	Please see "Section 2" of ODP Announcement 23-036, as the following is also explained there. If a Life Sharing provider is already providing Life Sharing services to an individual and now wants

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	<p><b>need to bill for the Medically Complex Life Sharing service codes or can the provider continue to bill for the current Life Sharing service codes?</b></p>	<p>to bill using procedure codes W0062 (1-person home) or W0063 (2-person home), the individual must have a completed DP 1090 with a verified MCC and the provider must meet the additional qualifications (see attachment 2 of the communication) to be authorized for the MCC Life Sharing.</p> <p>If the provider does not meet the additional qualifications to render MCC Life Sharing, the provider must continue to provide and bill the Life Sharing codes that are currently authorized in the Individual Support Plan (ISP). The MCC Life Sharing procedure codes (W0062 and W0063) cannot be added to the ISP until the provider becomes qualified. If this is the case, the individual and their team must be informed that the provider does not meet the additional qualifications to provide MCC Life Sharing. The individual and team will then need to decide if the individual's needs are being met and if they want to continue with their current Life Sharing service and provider or look for a new provider that meets the qualifications to render the MCC Life Sharing service.</p>
13.	<p><b>Can the provider choose if they want to become qualified to render Life Sharing for individuals with a MCC?</b></p>	<p>Yes, just like with any other waiver service the Life Sharing provider can choose whether to become qualified. If the Life Sharing provider is not qualified to render the service, they won't be able to provide it or bill for it. As stated in ODP Announcement 23-036, if the provider does not meet the additional qualifications to render MCC Life Sharing, the provider must continue to provide and bill the Life Sharing codes that are currently authorized in the ISP. The MCC Life Sharing procedure codes (W0062 and W0063) will not be able to be added to the ISP until the provider becomes qualified.</p> <p>The individual and their team must be informed of the following:</p>

	Question	Answer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provider does not meet the additional qualifications to provide MCC Life Sharing; <b>and</b></li> <li>• The individual and team will need to decide if the individual’s needs are being met and if they want to continue with their current Life Sharing service and provider or look for a new provider that meets the qualifications to render the MCC Life Sharing service.</li> </ul>
14.	<p><b>If the Life Sharing host family is related to the individual, do they need to have a high school diploma to be the MCC Life Sharing host?</b></p>	<p>There are slightly different qualification requirements for the Life Sharing host family based on whether they are considered a relative of the individual to whom they are providing the Life Sharing service. The waivers contain the following provider qualification requirements:</p> <p>“The Life Sharer who is employed or has a contract with the Life Sharing agency to provide Life Sharing services to participants with a medically complex condition <b>who are related</b> to the Life Sharer must meet the additional following standards: Have one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high school diploma, GED, or equivalent (including a written attestation from the educational organization),</li> <li>• Documentation of at least one post-secondary course that was completed post high school graduation, or</li> <li>• A written attestation from the Life Sharing agency that the Life Sharer has demonstrated basic skills to provide, comprehend, and ensure the health and safety of the participant.”</li> </ul> <p>“The Life Sharer who is employed or has a contract with the Life Sharing agency to provide Life Sharing services to participants with a medically complex condition <b>who are not related</b> to the Life Sharer must meet the additional following standards:</p>

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		Have one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high school diploma, GED, or equivalent (including a written attestation from the educational organization), or</li> <li>• Documentation of at least one post-secondary course that was completed post high school graduation.”</li> </ul>
<b>Rates</b>		
15.	<b>We see that Life Sharing providers get an increased rate when they provide this service for individuals with a MCC but families are not seeing an increase in their stipend. Will families also get an increase in pay rate due to the level of care that families are providing?</b>	ODP has increased the rate for providers when they are rendering Life Sharing services to individuals with a MCC. The Life Sharing provider determines the amount of stipend that will be paid to the Life Sharing host. Life Sharing host families are encouraged to bring up any payment concerns to their providers.
16.	<b>Do Life Sharing families who are relatives of the individual receiving services need to have their home licensed to receive a higher stipend for serving an individual with an MCC?</b>	If the Life Sharing host family has any concerns or questions about their stipend, they need to address this with their Life Sharing provider. It does not matter if the house is licensed for the Life Sharing provider to bill Life Sharing for individuals with a MCC, which has a higher rate. Relative's homes do not need to be licensed.
<b>Nursing/Medical Care</b>		
17.	<b>What is the role of the nurse in MCC Life Sharing?</b>	The RN or LPN will have the following responsibilities which must be documented, such as within the agency’s policy, protocol, or job description, which consists of at minimum the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting and documenting routine monitoring and assessment of the participant’s health and safety in coordination with the Life Sharing Specialist;</li> <li>• Routine monitoring is based on the needs of the individual as documented in their ISP.</li> <li>• Providing relevant health care and safety related training to the host family and any additional Life Sharing staff providing support in coordination with the Life Sharing Specialist;</li> </ul>

	Question	Answer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The provider has the option to arrange for training by healthcare professionals regarding the health care and safety needs of the individual.</li> <li>○ Additional Life Sharing staff could be anyone who is directly providing the Life Sharing service who is trained in the individual's care.</li> <li>● Overseeing access to and coordination of medical care including assisting the host family with medical appointments and maintaining documentation related to health care;</li> <li>● The RN or LPN is responsible to help the family with medical appointments, such as accompanying the individual on the appointment, setting the appointment up, etc.</li> <li>● The nurse is responsible for maintaining the documentation related to the individual's health care needs.</li> <li>● Being promptly available to the host family for consultation on an as needed basis</li> <li>● The policy, protocol, or job description must also consist of how the RN or LPN will be available to meet or respond to the host family's request, within at least 15 minutes.</li> <li>● The host family must be able to call and get a response from the RN or LPN 24 hours a day.</li> </ul> <p>The Life Sharing provider is also responsible for providing physical health maintenance services including those required by a licensed nurse when required to assure health and wellness or as required in the Individual Support Plan.</p>
18.	<b>What is a Special Needs Unit and who should we contact for questions?</b>	Please see the following link which explains what a Special Needs Unit is and who to contact: <a href="https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthChoices/HC-">https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthChoices/HC-</a>

Question		Answer
		<a href="#">Services/Documents/Flyer%20-%20MCO%20Special%20Needs%20Units.pdf</a>
<b>Medical Assistance Coverage of Services For Individuals Under Age 21</b>		
19.	<b>Is nursing staff allowed to be alone with a minor?</b>	Medical Assistance covers nursing that is deemed medically necessary for individuals under the age of 21. Often Medical Assistance authorizations for Home Shift Care/Skilled Nursing are to cover hours when parents are out of the home at work including commuting to and from their jobs. Home Health Aides can also provide care for children when their parents are working, etc.
20.	<b>If an individual under the age of 21 needs additional hours of nursing (outside of what is already approved through Medical Assistance), what is the process to receive that nursing?</b>	Nursing that is deemed medically necessary is covered under Medical Assistance for individuals under the age of 21. The Supports Coordinator and Life Sharing Specialist must help facilitate conversations, which might consist of the life sharing host family and/or Life Sharing provider having a conversation with the individual's physical health Managed Care Organization (MCO) to request additional hours of nursing. The family or Life Sharing provider may need to obtain a letter of medical necessity to provide to the physical health MCO.
21.	<b>What happens when a nurse who is covered through Medical Assistance is scheduled to work but does not show up for their shift, who will provide the needed care?</b>	<p>The Life Sharing provider must develop a back-up plan for every individual they serve. These back-up plans are developed with the unique needs and risk factors of each individual in mind and are discussed and shared with the individual, their family, and team members.</p> <p>When an individual receives nursing through Medical Assistance, the back-up plan must include information about what the Life Sharing provider will do if the nurse does not show up. When the Medical Assistance nurse does not show up for their shift, the Life Sharing provider is responsible for the needed care of the individual in Life Sharing, including providing the medical care.</p>



	Question	Answer
		<p>The Consolidated and Community Living waivers require the Life Sharing provider to train the host family to provide the necessary care to the individual prior to rendering the Life Sharing services. Therefore, the host family may provide the backup support to the individual with a MCC.</p> <p>The Life Sharing provider or Supports Coordinator should follow-up with the MCO Special Needs Unit if problems with nursing coverage through Medical Assistance continue.</p> <p>Please note: Shift Nursing services through the waiver cannot be used as a back-up plan for individuals receiving Life Sharing services.</p>
22.	<p><b>Can someone who is not related to a minor with a MCC provide medical care when the Medical Assistance nurse does not show up?</b></p>	<p>The Life Sharing provider must follow the back-up plan which could include the host family (related or unrelated) providing the medical care since they are trained on the individual's specific needs.</p> <p>The Life Sharing provider is responsible to ensure the individual's health and safety is being met. If a Medical Assistance nurse does not show up (and everything was done to try to receive nursing through Medical Assistance), the Life Sharing provider would be responsible to ensure the necessary services are delivered.</p> <p>For questions and concerns about EPSDT services, the Life Sharing provider should contact the Special Needs Unit (within the individual's MCO).</p>
23.	<p><b>What happens when a minor with a MCC turns 21 and the EPSDT benefit of Medical Assistance is no longer available to them? What does that mean for nursing care needs for the Life Sharing provider?</b></p>	<p>Prior to the individual turning 21, the ISP team should have conversations to prepare for this. If the individual is receiving Life Sharing and EPSDT, the Life Sharing provider will be responsible to provide needed nursing care to the individual when they turn 21 in accordance with waiver requirements.</p>

<b>Question</b>		<b>Answer</b>
24.	<b>Can a minor who is receiving Life Sharing also receive services from a home health aide at the same time?</b>	Yes, Life Sharing and EPSDT may be provided at the same time. However, the Life Sharing Host cannot also be the home health aide (see question 25 for further explanation).
25.	<b>Can a member of the Life Sharing home provide services as a home health aide or a nurse if they are hired through Medical Assistance?</b>	The person who is the identified Life Sharer cannot also be the individual's home health aide or nurse at the time Life Sharing is being provided. When there are other people in the home who are not the identified Life Sharer, those people could be a home health aide or nurse for the individual since they are not the ones providing the Life Sharing service. The same person cannot provide both Life Sharing and a service authorized for payment by Medical Assistance.
<b>Medication Administration</b>		
26.	<b>Can medication administration training at 55 Pa. Code § 6500.139 and §6100.468, be waived if the Life Sharing host family has been intensively trained by the hospital to care for the individual's needs prior to the individual's discharge?</b>	The medication administration training in the regulations is different from the training that is explained at discharge. However, the Life Sharing provider agency has the option to request a waiver of the regulations in accordance with 55 Pa. Code §6500.12, §6100.43 and ODP Bulletin 00-22-02.