

New Federal Regulations Impact Your Medicaid Participants!

If You Serve Medicaid Participants New Federal Rules Will Affect You

There are new federal rules that will affect any certified family home provider who is reimbursed by Medicaid to provide care and assistance to a Medicaid participant. The goal of the new rules is to enhance the overall quality of home and community-based services (HCBS) and to ensure that individuals receive these services in settings that are integrated in, and support full access to, the greater community. These federal rules are now law and will not be going away. Medicaid must ensure they are followed by providers in our state. It is important that you learn about the new rules as soon as possible.

New Regulations Begin July 1, 2016

Idaho Medicaid will be proposing changes to existing state Medicaid rules during the 2016 legislative session to support the new federal requirements. Once new state Medicaid rules are passed, providers will have six months to come into compliance if they wish to continue to be reimbursed by Medicaid to provide care and assistance to Medicaid funded residents living in their home. Compliance is expected by January 2017.

Medicaid Wants to Help...

An HCBS webpage has been established by Medicaid with information about the new federal rules. The webpage address is www.HCBS.dhw.idaho.gov. There you will find lots of information about the changes coming. You will also see an option to email Medicaid with any questions or comments you may have. Medicaid will be hosting several WebEx meetings over the next year and a half to help providers understand the new expectations. These meetings will be announced on the HCBS webpage and via email. To confirm you are on the email list for these announcements, please send your email address to the program via the HCBS webpage.

Medicaid will also develop a tool kit for providers later this year or early in 2016 to help you assess your compliance with the new federal rules. The tool kit will include a checklist that identifies HCBS setting requirements for the different types of Medicaid reimbursed providers. The tool kit will be available through the state's HCBS webpage.

Continued Medicaid Reimbursement Requires Your Compliance

Any certified family home provider who is unable or unwilling to comply with the new rules cannot be reimbursed by Medicaid to provide care and assistance to residents living in their home. If it is determined a home does not meet HCBS setting requirements, residents will be notified and, if necessary, will be provided with assistance in finding alternative care and housing.

To review a copy of the new federal rules that apply to certified family home providers, please go to the HCBS webpage at www.HCBS.dhw.idaho.gov. On the right side of the website (under the "Resources" heading) you will see a document titled, "Home and Community Based Setting Qualities". It summarizes the new rules you will be expected to follow. If you have any questions, Medicaid staff is happy to help. Please send an email to HCBS@dhw.idaho.gov and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Stay Informed!

Information will continue to be posted on our HCBS webpage including PowerPoint presentations, a copy of the rules, frequently asked questions, a link to the federal website with information about the rules, etc. It is our primary means of communication so please check it frequently for new information and resources.