Home Health Services – Ordering Providers

Policy Summary:

Vermont Medicaid allows additional provider types to order Home Health Services. These changes are a result of the Federal CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. These are permanent changes that are not limited to the duration of the public health emergency.

1. Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists may order home health services in addition to physicians.

   This applies to the following services provided by a home health agency:
   - Part time or intermittent nursing services,
   - Home health aide services,
   - Physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech language pathology services.

2. Durable, medical equipment, and supplies may be ordered by a licensed medical provider acting within the scope of their practice as authorized under Vermont State law.

This change will be submitted to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid services as State Plan Amendment (SPA) # 21-0001. This service will also be added to the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the New Adult Group through SPA 20-0003. The ABP replicates the full Medicaid State Plan and includes the 10 essential health benefits required under the Affordable Care Act, as well as the full range of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for individuals under the age of 21.

Effective Date:
January 1, 2021

Authority/Legal Basis:
Medicaid State Plan

Section 3708 of the CARES Act
Population Affected:
All Medicaid

Fiscal Impact:
No fiscal impact

Public Comment Period:
The public comment period ended December 18, 2020. No comments were received.

Additional information:
The draft SPA provides additional details on the proposed changes; copies of the draft SPA can be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from DVHA at (802) 355-8843, or can be found on the Agency of Human Services website.