



SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE DIVISION

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

Home Health Policy Manual

Title: Home Health Policy 710
Section: SERVICE COORDINATION
Subject: Services to Children
Reference: ARM 37.85.204
Supersedes: Policy 710, Issued 11/01/2001

DEFINITION

Federal Medicaid law defines children as individuals who have not yet reached their 21st birthday. Children are not eligible solely based upon their age. They must meet the service criteria to receive services. It is inappropriate to provide Home Health services only as a convenience to parents. Before initiating Home Health services, private duty nursing services for children must be considered.

NURSING

The Montana Medicaid program covers private duty nursing (PDN) services for non-institutionalized children requiring complex care for conditions of such medical severity or complexity that skilled nursing care is required. All private duty nursing services require prior authorization by the Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation (MPQH). Authorization is based upon the severity of the task and the time required performing a skilled nursing task.

Services may include:

1. Skilled nursing services provided by a registered or licensed practical nurse; or
2. Member specific training provided to an RN or LPN when a member is new to a nursing agency, when a change in condition of the member requires additional training for the current nurse, or when a change in nursing personnel requires a new nurse to be trained to care for the member.

Home Health services are not available to children who qualify for PDN service. PDN is considered equally safe and effective to and less costly than Home Health services. If a PDN provider is not available, Home Health services may be provided. However, it must be documented in the member's chart that PDN services were not available. If PDN services become available, the Home Health agency must transfer the case to the PDN agency. The department may review such cases.

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Services provided by a Home Health agency for the sole purpose to oversee the private duty nursing provider or case management services are not reimbursable. This is considered a duplicate service.