1915(c) HCBS Waiver Response to COVID-19

In March, the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) made updates to the 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and state of emergency in Kentucky. The goal of these updates outlined in Appendix K of the 1915(c) HCBS waiver application is to help reduce service disruptions for participants and give providers flexibility in dealing with changes caused by COVID-19. These updates include allowing some services to be provided online, increasing limits on some services, changing the hiring requirements for agency and PDS employees, and expanding Home Delivered Meals to all waivers, except Model II. DMS has made resources available online to help stakeholders understand the updates.

COVID-19 Resources for 1915(c) HCBS Waivers

Appendix K

Summary of Temporary COVID-19 Updates


Kentucky’s COVID-19 Information Website kycovid19.ky.gov

DMS knows many of our waiver providers are eager to re-open or resume their usual operations. It is up to Governor Andy Beshear and the Kentucky Department for Public Health to determine when and how these businesses can safely reopen. The Governor’s Office recently released its “10 Rules to Re-opening” as a guide for businesses, More information on the Governor’s current plans for reopening can be reviewed at https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work. DMS is monitoring the Governor’s actions and will use these as a guide for decisions on discontinuing Appendix K updates and returning to normal operations. DMS will notify providers of the return to normal operations at least 48-hours in advance.

Have a waiver-related COVID-19 question?
Call: (844) 784-5614
Email: 1915cWaiverHelpDesk@ky.gov
DMS Begins Implementation of Electronic Visit Verification

In May, DMS announced it is starting to implement electronic visit verification, or EVV, for some 1915(c) HCBS waiver services. EVV is an application used on a tablet or smartphone to document information about services delivered to a waiver participant. This information includes the date, type, and location of the service, the service start and end time, name of the individual providing the service, and name of the waiver participant receiving it.

EVV will apply to five of Kentucky’s six 1915(c) HCBS waivers: Acquired Brain Injury, Acquired Brain Injury Long Term Care, Home and Community Based, Michelle P. Waiver, and Supports for Community Living. The listing of services that will be required to use EVV is available at the link in the box below.

While EVV is a requirement under a federal law passed in 2016, it should benefit waiver participants and providers by simplifying completion of required documentation and timesheets, make scheduling services easier, improve monitoring of participant health, safety, and welfare, and reduce Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse. Providers of affected services must begin using EVV no later than January 1, 2021.

To learn more about EVV, visit the DMS EVV website. DMS encourages affected providers and anyone who wishes to get updates about EVV in Kentucky to subscribe to our email list using the “Subscribe to EVV Updates” link below.

If you have questions about EVV, please view our EVV FAQ, email MedicaidPublicComment@ky.gov or 1915cWaiverHelpDesk@ky.gov, or call (844) 784-5614.

Acquired Brain Injury Branch Marks Brain Injury Awareness Month

The Division of Community Alternatives (DCA) Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Branch spread awareness about brain injuries during Brain Injury Awareness Month in March. The ABI team educated their colleagues in the other DCA branches by sharing daily brain injury facts via email. On March 4, Brain Injury Awareness Day, the ABI branch held a special event for Medicaid staff featuring brain injury information, brain games, and brain-friendly snacks. Members of the ABI team also took time in March to further their education on brain injuries. Four staff members attended the 2020 Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky Brain Injury Summit in Louisville.

DMS EVV Website

Services Required to Use EVV

EVV FAQ

Subscribe to EVV Updates