

# Waiver Updates

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# Proposed Waiver Amendments

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), approved the following changes to be effective January 2019:

- New Assistive Technology service
- Modifications to Remote Monitoring/Support
- New Community Transition service

# Assistive Technology

- A new waiver service that can pay for:
  - Someone who will help find the right technology to meet assessed needs (consultation);
  - The actual equipment a person needs ; and
  - Someone who will teach the person using the equipment, family members, providers, etc. how to use the equipment (support)

# Assistive Technology

- “Consultation”
  - Not required for all purchases
  - The county board may suggest it for large purchases to make sure a person’s waiver dollars are only spent on things the person can/will use

# Assistive Technology

- “Equipment”
  - Up to \$5,000.00 per waiver span.
  - The waiver can only be used for equipment when:
    - It is for something to address an assessed (disability-specific) need
    - No other resources can pay for it
      - Personal funds
      - Community resources
      - Medicaid card
      - Other
    - The item is the least costly way to meet that person’s needs

# Assistive Technology

- “Equipment” may include:
  - Items available to the public in stores or online (off-the-shelf)
  - Items that are specially designed for the person
  - Changes to off-the-shelf items that are made to address the person’s needs
  - Items that are rented, bought or built/designed.
  - Services with a monthly fee of up to \$75.00/month (Personal emergency response systems, “I’ve fallen and I can’t get up” button, etc.)

# Assistive Technology

- “Equipment”
  - May be used to buy items needed for Remote Supports
  - Can be used to pay for internet needed for the Remote Support equipment only when:
    - No other resources are available
    - The internet service is protected by the vendor so it can only be used for the Remote Support equipment
    - The internet service is not used by the person receiving services, family members, providers, etc. for other reasons

# Assistive Technology

- “Support”
  - Can use up to 40 hours for each waiver span
  - May include working with other therapists to make sure the equipment meets the person’s needs



<b>Personal Emergency Response (Level One)</b>	<p>No longer available after 1/1/19. Use Assistive Technology - Equipment, instead.</p>
<b>Remote Monitoring – Equipment (Level One, SELF and IO)</b>	<p>No longer available after 1/1/19. Use Assistive Technology - Equipment, instead.</p>
<b>Career Planning – Assistive Technology Assessment (Level One, SELF and IO)</b>	<p>No longer available after 1/1/19. Use Assistive Technology - Consultation, instead.</p>
<b>Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies (Level One and IO)</b>	<p>Cannot be used to purchase items available through Assistive Technology Equipment after 1/1/19. This includes but is not limited to tablets, “apps,” sensors, video doorbells, other electronic/smart items.</p>
<b>Participant-Directed Goods and Services (SELF)</b>	<p>Cannot be used to purchase items available through Assistive Technology Equipment after 1/1/19. This includes but is not limited to tablets, “apps,” sensors, video doorbells, other electronic/smart items.</p>
<b>Assistive Technology (Level One, SELF and IO)</b>	<p>Cannot be used to purchase items available through Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies. This includes but is not limited to beds, mechanical lifts, adaptive utensils, or other forms of adaptive equipment.</p>

# Remote Monitoring/Supports

- Service using technology for people to receive supports from staff working at a different location.
- No longer called Remote “Monitoring”
- Will be called Remote “Supports”
- Rate will be increased about 6%

# Community Transition Service

- Will be available in the IO Waiver only.
- Service for people who have lived in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF) or nursing facility for at least 90 days.
- Used to pay for start-up costs needed for a person to move to a community home.

# Community Transition Service

- Examples may include:
  - Security deposits
  - Fees/deposits for electric, gas, phone, water
  - Household items, such as furniture, bedding, towels, dishes, etc.
  - Moving expenses
  - Transportation needed to help the person prepare for leaving the facility

# Community Transition Service

- The service CANNOT pay for:
  - Ongoing costs/bills
    - Groceries
    - Electric, gas, water, phone bills
    - Cable/internet
  - Items used for entertainment or recreation
  - Tobacco/alcohol

# Community Transition Service

- Up to \$2,000.00 may be used for start-up costs and transportation services.
- No more than \$500.00 may be used for transportation.

# Waiting List Rule

- County boards started completing waiting list assessments 9/1/18.
  - As part of the annual review process
  - If a person's needs change
- Individuals/families will be able to see their completed assessments by getting and logging into their DODD account.

# Possible Assessment Outcomes

Outcome	What Happens
No assessed needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removed from transitional list</li><li>• Not added to waiting list</li><li>• Due process is provided</li></ul>
Needs are identified that can be addressed with alternative community-based services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removed from transitional list</li><li>• Not added to waiting list</li><li>• Board assists person with accessing alternative services</li><li>• Due process is provided</li></ul>
Needs are identified that may require waiver enrollment within 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removed from the transitional list</li><li>• Placed on the waiting list</li><li>• Board assist person with accessing any available services</li><li>• Due process is provided</li></ul>
Needs are identified that require the board to take action within 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removed from the transitional list</li><li>• Not added to the waiting list</li><li>• Board takes action to address needs (local resources, Medicaid card, waiver, etc.)</li><li>• Due process is provided</li></ul>



# Future Amendments

- Proposed changes to Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) and Transportation
  - Increased rates for transportation provided in small groups and/or modified vehicles
  - Increased budget limitations
  - Target date – October 2019

# Future Amendments

- Proposed changes to Participant-Directed Goods and Services (PDGS)
  - To be available in all three waivers
  - Modified service definition to specify the types of purchases that can be made
  - Modified budget limitations

# Questions?