

# IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT202393    AUGUST 3, 2023

## IHCP announces home health policy changes

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on or after Sept. 1, 2023, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will update indicators for home health services, home health hourly determination guidelines and prior authorization (PA) documentation guidelines for home health services. These policy updates apply to services delivered under both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

### Indicators for home health services

As described in the [Home Health Services](#) provider reference module, eligibility for home health services requires that at least one indicator from each of two categories be present. The following indicator will be moved from Category I:

Member to Category II: Caregiver:

- “The member does not have a primary caregiver or access to other care.”

The following requirements will be removed from applicable indicators in Category II: Caregiver:

- “Practitioner’s statement required”
- “Commanding officer, other military representative or employer’s statement required”



Condition-specific indicators for the following disorders will be removed:

- Central nervous system
- Gastrointestinal
- Musculoskeletal
- Respiratory
- Urinary/renal

Medical necessity criteria and utilization management policies will follow noncustomized national clinical guidelines (NCGs) – either InterQual or Milliman Care Guidelines (MCG).

### Home health care hourly determination guidelines

Specific home health care hourly determination guidelines will be updated to allow the following considerations for caregivers available to provide care for the member:

- Whether the caregiver works outside the home, whether that work is performed in-person or remotely
- Whether the caregiver attends school outside the home, whether attending in-person or remotely

Home health care hourly determination guidelines will be updated to remove the following requirements from the list of documentation that must be submitted:

- “Substantiated in writing by the commanding officer or other military representative,” in the event a caregiver is called to military duty
- “Substantiated in writing by the employer,” in the event that there is temporary unavailability due to employment responsibilities

Special situations that may support up to 16 hours per day of home health services will be updated to allow the following considerations for caregivers available to provide care for the member:

- A single caregiver is available, and that caregiver also works full-time (or a significant number of part-time hours), whether that work is performed in-person or remotely.

The guidelines for these special situations will be updated to remove the following requirements from the list of documentation that must be submitted:

- “The caregiver’s qualified treating practitioner must substantiate the caregiver’s disability in writing,” in the event a second adult is present in the house but is unable to provide care due to a physical disability or limitation.
- “If the IHCP is not providing services to this child at home also, the child’s qualified treating practitioner must provide a statement of the child’s medical needs. The same caregivers must be caring for these children, as well as for the member for whom the PA request has been submitted,” in the event the caregiver has significant additional childcare responsibilities

### Home health PA documentation

Specific home health PA documentation guidelines will be updated to include:

- Whether the caregiver works outside the home, whether that work is performed in-person or remotely.
- Whether the caregiver attends school outside of the home, whether attending in-person or remotely.

Home health PA documentation will be updated to remove the following requirements from the list of documentation that must be submitted with the PA request for all home health services:

- A copy of the caregiver’s work schedule from the employer
- A copy of the caregiver’s class schedule from the school

### For more information

Questions about PA indicators for home health services, home health hourly determination guidelines and home health PA documentation for FFS members should be directed to Kepro at 866-725-9991. Questions about PA indicators for home health services, home health hourly determination guidelines and home health PA documentation for members in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Care Connect and Hoosier Healthwise should be referred to the managed care entity (MCE) with which the member is enrolled.



**QUESTIONS?**

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