



Children with Special Health Needs Town Hall:

Children's Personal Care Services (CPCS)

April 10, 2020

Our time together

Welcome and introductions

Charlotte Safran: Family Partnerships Coordinator

Betty Morse: Technical Assistance Specialist

Monica Ogelby: Clinical Services Director

Adam Poulin: Program Administrator

Framework for the meeting

Overview of the changes

Questions and Answers previously submitted and live

Temporary changes to Children's Personal Care Services (CPCS) due to COVID-19

Overview

Children who receive CPCS need **extra support** with their daily self-care routines.

During to the COVID-19 pandemic, families may not be able to access extra support from an **outside provider**.

The VT Agency of Human Services requested a waiver from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) to allow parents and family members to **receive payment** for the extra personal care they are providing.

This is a temporary change: **retroactive to March 15, 2020**, until the Federal Government determines the public health emergency to be over.

How will this work?

- A parent will submit an invoice to ARIS and receive a tax-free payment
- This approach is different from the employer/employee model typically used for CPCS
- Invoices can be submitted bi-weekly and will follow the typical CPCS pay cycle
- Payments will be made at the Medicaid rate (\$13.74 per hour)
- The number of hours is based on your child's weekly allocation of CPCS

How will this work? *ARIS Solutions*

ARIS developed an **invoice** that collects some basic information, including the parent/caregiver's name, address, relationship to the child, date range, and the number of hours provided (only up-to the child's weekly allocation).

Blank invoices are available to download from the ARIS website **today**. Blank copies will be mailed to families with the next round of spending reports (including prepaid return envelopes).

For parents who have not previously enrolled as an employer with ARIS, a **parent/child relationship form** must be submitted as well. This form is on the ARIS website today as well.

Completed forms can be mailed, faxed, or scanned and emailed as a PDF

Timelines

Payments will follow the typical CPCS pay-cycle.

Completed forms submitted by 12p on Monday, April 13, will be paid in the 4/17 check run.

Completed forms submitted by 12p on Monday, April 27, will be paid in the 5/1 check run.

After meeting their contractual obligations and depending on staffing patterns, ARIS will attempt to process payments off-cycle in the 4/24 check run – but only if they are able to process **all** forms received by 12p Monday, April 20.

Important considerations

Payments will be made from a child's current allocation of CPCS

Parents can choose to be paid for fewer hours per week to conserve funds

Other PCAs may still be used and individual allocations will need to be monitored for remaining funds

Children's Personal Care Services staff want to hear from families about how this temporary change will work for them. We are always available to discuss individual circumstances.

Questions and Answers

Previously submitted questions:

Question: Can both/multiple parents be paid as employees?

Answer: these payments are not a form of employment. However, a different parent can be paid, week to week, depending on who is providing care to the eligible child. Each parent will need to complete and submit separate forms and the total hours per week cannot exceed the child's weekly allocation.

Question: Will there be a background check?

Answer: No. ARIS will quickly screen parents against the Office of Inspector General (OIG) exclusion list, but this is different than a background check.

Previously submitted questions:

Question: How many hours at a time can we be paid?

Answer: hours will be paid out bi-weekly. This means an invoice can include up to two weeks of the child's weekly allocation.

Example: for a child eligible for 5 hours per week of CPCS, an invoice for the date range 3/15/20 – 3/28/20 can include 10 total hours.

Question: Overtime eligibility?

Answer: No. Because these payments are not a form of employment, overtime rules do not apply.

Previously submitted questions:

Question: what about those of us in the midst of a renewal?

Answer: CPCS has suspended the reapplication process and is granting 6-month extensions based on a child's current weekly allocation. Correction letters have been mailed to families who received reassessment requests with April, May, and June due dates. New applications are still being reviewed and reapplications can be reviewed when there has been a change in the child's underlying need for personal care.

Statement: We need a clear list of forms needed and instructions to apply

Response: A guidance document, including links to all the forms on ARIS' website is available on CPCS page of the CSHN/VDH website.

Live questions and answers



Please contact CPCS program staff with any questions:

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