



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

December 30, 2008

To: Consumer Directed Services Agencies (CDSA) for Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Consumers in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-184
Money Follows the Person (MFP) CBA Demonstration Service: Overnight Companion Services Available Through the Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Option

Background

The MFP initiative helps people receiving Medicaid services in an institution return to the community without being placed on a community services interest list. Through September 2011, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will enhance its successful MFP initiative through the new MFP Demonstration. The MFP Demonstration provides enhanced services to participants relocating into the community for 365 days post relocation. Participants will continue in the CBA program as long as they are eligible, but can only receive enhanced services for 365 days.

MFP Demonstration Service –Overnight Companion Services (OCS) through the CDS Option

On July 1, 2008, DADS implemented a new pilot service, OCS, for CBA MFP demonstration participants residing in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy counties. Individuals may access OCS to assist in their relocation from institutional to community living. OCS is offered annually for up to 20 participants. OCS provides 8-12 consecutive hours of access to direct support and assistance in the individual's home during normal sleeping hours. OCS is not restricted to normal nighttime hours.

Effective January 15, 2009, eligible individuals may receive OCS through the CDS Option. An individual hired to provide OCS must:

- meet the requirements to provide Personal Assistance Services as defined at *40 TAC §97.404*;
- not be a resident in the home of the individual receiving services;
- have a separate, permanent residence; and
- not be the spouse or minor child of the individual receiving services.

The companion employee is not required to remain awake, but must be able to be awakened and provide assistance when needed. The CDS employer may consider the use of technological devices (e.g. pagers, "child" monitoring systems) to enable the individual to notify and wake the companion. If technological devices are used, the CDS employer must document competency in the use of devices by the companion employee before the service is implemented. OCS may not

be used to pay for technological devices, but the DADS case manager may determine that a device is allowable as a CBA adaptive aid when a request is made by the CDS employer to the case manager.

For more information about eligibility criteria for OCS, please refer to Information Letter 08-58 at: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/communications/2008/letters/IL2008-58.pdf> .

Authorizing OCS

During the initial assessment of the CBA MFP Demonstration applicant, the DADS case manager will review the OCS criteria and determine if:

- OCS is needed,
- if the applicant meets the criteria, and
- if an OCS slot is available.

The case manager will also offer the CDS option as part of the initial assessment and inform the individual that OCS is one of several services that can be delivered through the CDS option. The other services in CBA offered through the CDS option are personal assistance services (PAS), respite, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. Individuals may decide to self-direct one or all of these services. The case manager will send the CDSA selected by the individual Form 1584, Consumer Participation Choice, and authorize OCS via Form 2067, Case Information. The case manager documents OCS on Form 8598 (formerly Form 3671-3) of the Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and sends a copy of the ISP to the CDSA. **The service code for OCS-CDS is 65V.**

CBA participants using OCS remain eligible for all other CBA services as documented on their ISP. The dollar value of OCS is not included in the overall ISP. The DADS case manager and interdisciplinary team (IDT) will review the continued need for OCS six months after service initiation or when informed that an individual receiving OCS may no longer be eligible due to a change in circumstances or supports.

Billing for CDS-OCS

If a consumer chooses to self direct OCS, the CDSA should contact Paul Straka at paul.straka@dads.state.tx.us for the addition of the OCS-CDS code to that contract to allow for billing. A contract amendment will not be required for this pilot service.

A unit of service is defined as 8 – 12 consecutive hours within a 24-hour period. The reimbursement rate for a unit of CDS-OCS is \$43.17. To bill for CDS-OCS, CDSAs must use the Overnight Support Services code (service group 3, service code 65V, bill code G0818) in the following billing crosswalk: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/hipaa/billcodes/index.html#lrc>.

The CDS monthly financial management services (FMS) fee (63V) for CBA is \$202 per month, regardless of the number of CBA services an individual receives through the CDS option.

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If you have additional questions, please contact the Community Services OCS policy specialist at (512) 438-3015. If you have questions regarding the OCS or CDS rates, please contact Sarah Hambrick with the Health and Human Services (HHSC) Rate Analysis Department by e-mail at sarah.hambrick@hhsc.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 491-1431.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik
Director
Community Services

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