



*Creating solutions, One person at a time*

PBH Administration Communication Bulletin

FY-0910-AA-12

**To: DD Providers**

**From: Andrea Misenheimer  
Medicaid Project Manager**

**Date: April 20, 2010**

**RE: Changes in Innovations Waiver Effective April 1, 2010**

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**Notice to Providers**

This notice provides you with changes to the Innovations Waiver Effective April 1, 2010. Please contact your Provider Relations Manager if you have additional questions about these changes.

<b>Area of Waiver</b>	<b>Change</b>
Name of Waiver	North Carolina Innovations Waiver
Waiver Operation Period	Technical Amendment: April 1, 2010 thru March 31, 2013
Target Population	Individuals who live in private homes or facilities with 6 or fewer beds may enter the Innovations Waiver
Individual Waiver Cost Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual cost limit is <b>\$135,000</b> (all Innovations services)</li><li>• Will become part of the eligibility criteria</li><li>• Includes all services in the participant's Innovations Base Individual Budget <b>and</b> all Add On Innovations Services.</li><li>• There is no exception process for this limit</li><li>• If a participant's health and safety cannot be assured within the cost limit, the participant will be offered the option of ICF-MR facility placement</li><li>• Effective with April 1, 2010 approved plans</li></ul>
Number of Persons Served	Added New Persons Served <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 3: 670</li><li>• Year 4: 675</li><li>• Year 5: 680</li></ul> New categories of set aside slots

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 3 CAP-MR/CAP-C transition: 5</li> <li>• Year 3 DI for Children: 2</li> </ul>
Prioritization Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAP-C transition slots access is “aging out of CAP-C waiver/over 18 years of age and meets but does not exceed the ICF-MR eligibility criteria”</li> </ul>
Prioritization Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criteria for emergency set aside slots remains the same</li> <li>• De-institutionalization slots to be used for children who are not eligible for the B-3 de-institutionalization funding</li> <li>• Prioritization Process: all slots for non set-aside categories will be first come/first serve with equitable distribution of waiver funding geographically across the PBH region</li> </ul>
<b>Area of Waiver</b>	<b>Change</b>
Assistive Technology Equipment and Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutritional Supplements for children under age 21 were removed. These are now covered under the North Carolina State Medicaid Plan. Nutritional Supplements for adults continue to be covered under this definition.</li> <li>• Standers with trays and attachments for children under age 21 were removed. These are now covered under the North Carolina State Medicaid Plan. Standers with trays and attachments for adults continue to be covered under this definition.</li> <li>• Prone boards with attachments for children under age 21 were removed. These are now covered under the North Carolina State Medicaid Plan. Prone boards for adults continue to be covered under this definition.</li> <li>• Car Seats that are necessary for positioning children who require specialized seating while being transported are now covered under this definition.</li> <li>• Alert systems now include use for prevention of the need for additional paid services rather than being used solely for the reduction of or fading of paid services</li> </ul>
Communication Devices	This service was removed. Communication Devices are now covered under the North Carolina State Medicaid Plan
Community Guide Services	The Community Guide may provide Agency With Choice Services to the same participant.
Crisis Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorized up to 14 calendar day increments per event.</li> <li>• Service cannot exceed 2016 hours per year</li> </ul>
Day Supports	<p>Clarifies that Day Supports is primarily a group service. It also clarifies pre-vocational services under Day Supports as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevocational services are provided to persons not expected to join the general work force or participate in transitional sheltered workshops within one year of service initiation</li> <li>• If compensated, the participant may on average, receive less than 50 percent of minimum wage.</li> <li>• Services include activities that are not directed at teaching job-specific skills but at underlying habilitative goals (e.g. attention span, motor skills, attendance, task completion.)</li> </ul> <p>Clarifies vocational services and Day Supports as follows:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day Supports may not be used for the provision of vocational services (e.g. sheltered workshop performed in a facility)</li> <li>• Vocational services which assist participants in learning to perform real jobs are to be provided in community settings and not in licensed facilities</li> <li>• Prevocational skills development where participants obtain the underlying habilitation skills, required for obtaining a job may be provided in the licensed day support setting.</li> </ul>
<b>Area of Waiver</b>	<b>Change</b>
Financial Supports Services	Financial supports agency may provide Agency With Choice, community transition and individual goods and services as well as community guide services to the same participant.
Residential: Bed Size Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity of new facilities entering the network continues to be 3 beds or less (newly constructed, newly licensed)</li> <li>• Capacity of existing facilities is up to 6 beds</li> <li>• Individuals who live in private homes or facilities with 6 or fewer beds may enter the Innovations Waiver</li> <li>• Existing and new participants may live in facilities up to 6 beds who are contracted with the PBH provider network</li> <li>• Participants already receiving Residential Supports in the one 8 bed facility may continue to receive Residential Supports</li> <li>• Participants currently receiving Innovations Services may continue to live in their current home or facility</li> </ul>
Residential Supports: definition changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential Supports Bed Size changed as listed above.</li> <li>• Change in wording under what Residential Supports includes: "Habilitation services that allow the individual to participate in home life or community activities. Transportation to and from the residence and points of travel in the community is included to the degree that they are not reimbursed by another funding source."</li> <li>• Alternative Family Living (AFL) sites where Residential Supports are provided must be the primary residence of the AFL provider (includes couples and single persons) who receive reimbursement for the cost of care. These sites are licensed or unlicensed in accordance with state rule.</li> <li>• Specific process for CAP-MR/DD participants transitioning to Innovations is explained for the purposes of future planning for expansion of the North Carolina MH/DD/SAS Health Plan/Innovations Waivers and will be effective on the date of operations of the new LME (s). This does not apply for the PBH area.</li> </ul>
Residential Supports: Definition of Home and Community Character	Residential Supports is provided in licensed residential settings which demonstrate a home and community character. A home and community environment is characterized as an environment like a home, provides full access to typical facilities in a home such as a kitchen with cooking facilities, small dining areas,

	<p>provides for privacy, visitors at times convenient to the participant and easy access to resources and activities in the community. Group homes are expected to be located in residential neighborhoods in the community. Meals are served family style and participants access community activities, employment, schools or day programs. Each facility shall assure to each participant the right to live as normally as possible while receiving care and treatment.</p>
<b>Area of Waiver</b>	<b>Change</b>
Residential Supports: Definition of Home and Community Character	<p>This process will be monitored by Care Coordination monitoring. Results of the monitoring are reported to the PIHP and the DMH/DD/SAS and DMA. Care Coordinators continue to offer participants choice of smaller facilities. Community Guides assist participants in transitioning to homes of their own.</p>
<p>Transportation all service definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Networking</li> <li>• Day Supports</li> <li>• Home Supports</li> <li>• Residential Supports</li> <li>• Supported Employment</li> </ul>	<p>Clarifies that for participants who are eligible for educational services under the Individual's With Disability Educational Act, does not include transportation to/from school settings. This includes transportation to/from the participant's home, provider's home where the participant is receiving services, before/after school or any community location where the participant may be receiving services before or after school.</p>