



## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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### **LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J259 ( Revised)**

Date: July 17, 2017

To: LME-MCOs

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, DMA  
Mabel McGlothlen, Team Leader for System Performance and Project Management,  
DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Innovations Waiver Community Living and Supports and State Plan Personal Care Services

This bulletin clarifies the use/authorization of the Innovations Waiver Service Community Living and Supports (CLS). CLS is an individualized service that enables the waiver beneficiary to live successfully in his/her own home, the home of his/her family or natural supports and be an active member of his/her community.

A paraprofessional assists the beneficiary to learn new skills and/or supports the person in activities that are individualized and aligned with their preferences. The intended outcome of the service is to increase or maintain the person's life skills or provide the supervision needed to , maximize his or her self-sufficiency, increase self- determination and enhance the beneficiary's opportunity to have full membership in his/her community.

CLS was implemented 11/1/2016. Prior to this date, the waiver contained separate services for in-home/community skill building and supervision/support with activities of daily living.

CLS is subject to the limits on sets of supports (54 hours per week for children when school is in session; 84 hours per week for children when school is not in session and for adults). There is also an exceptional needs component which can be used in short-term situations where more than 12 hours per day of supports is needed. Authorization requests for CLS must be reviewed for medical necessity.

Beneficiaries enrolled in the Innovations Waiver should not be directed to seek authorization under the State Plan for Personal Care Services (PCS) as an alternative to CLS outside of the following two scenarios:

1. A child needs support services in the school setting. This is appropriate as waiver services may not be provided in the school.
2. An adult residing in a family care home needs support in the family care home. This is appropriate as an adult residing in a family care home may not receive Residential Supports.

If an LME/MCO has issued a notice to a beneficiary advising them to seek State Plan PCS in lieu of CLS outside of the two scenarios listed above and has not already contacted the beneficiary to clarify the options available to the beneficiary, then the LME/MCO must issue a new notice to those beneficiaries, explaining why the new notice is being issued and informing them of their right to appeal.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Deb Goda at [deborah.goda@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:deborah.goda@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-855-4297.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins>

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