



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J330

Date: June 28, 2019

To: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid
Kathy Nichols, Assistant Director of Services and Supports, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Approval of North Carolina's 1915 (b) Waiver and Concurrent
1915 (c) Innovations Waiver

Effective July 1, 2019, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) granted North Carolina an approval of North Carolina's 1915(b) waiver program and the concurrent 1915(c) Innovations waiver.

Most changes to the 1915(b) Waiver were not substantive. Updates were made to reflect LME-MCO mergers, disengagements, and to the quality reporting and financial appendices. Individuals receiving Refugee Medical Assistance were removed as a covered population in the waiver, as LME-MCO contracts do not cover this population. These individuals can continue to access services through the Refugee Medical Assistance program.

The most notably changes expanded the three 1915(b)(3) pilot services state wide. These services are now offered by all LME-MCOs and include Transitional Living Skills, Intensive Recovery Supports and In-home Skill Building.

Additional changes to the (b)(3) services include:

- Allowing the LME-MCO to reimburse providers of Supported Employment on either a per-unit or milestone basis, as determined by the LME-MCO;
- Allowing provider agencies to bill administrative expenses for time spent purchasing goods and/or arranging services using One-time Transitional Costs;
- Requiring Peer Support to be provided by NC Certified Peer Support Specialists;
- Allowing Physician Consultation services to be provided by an individual psychiatrist or a consultative team.

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The following clarifications were made to the 1915(b)(3) services:

- Medicaid services require a service order;
- LME-MCOs may require additional training for providers based on the individuals served;
- One-time Transitional Costs can be used in conjunction with Transition Year Stability Funds (TYSF) and Money Follows the Person (MFP) start-up funds;
- Vendors, suppliers and commercial businesses may be paid directly by the LME-MCO, as appropriate, for One-time Transitional Costs;

Beginning July 1, 2019, the NC Innovations Waiver will:

- Operate at cost and utilization levels approved for the first year of the waiver, and
- 'Life of the Waiver' financial limits (Home Modifications, Vehicle Modifications, and Assistive Technology) will start over.

If you have any questions, please call Kenneth Bausell at 919-527-7643 or e-mail Kenneth.Bausell@dhhs.nc.gov, or call Deb Goda at 919-527-7640 or e-mail 33Deborah.Goda@dhhs.nc.gov.

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

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