



Division of Specialized Care for Children

December 10, 2024

Dear participant and caregiver,

We want to update you about our efforts to give more parents/legally responsible adults (LRAs) the opportunity to become paid caregivers for their children at home.

Plans are underway to allow parents/legally responsible adults (LRAs) to become paid caregivers if they are a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and employed by a nursing agency.

Currently, parents/LRAs are paid for providing skilled nursing services to their children if they hold an active registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) license. This rule applies to parents/LRAs of all children approved for Home Care Program services, regardless of the child's age.

Allowing parents and caregivers who are CNAs to become paid caregivers is an important step in strengthening support for families of individuals who need in-home shift nursing.

This change requires an amendment to the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Those Who Are Medically Fragile, Technology Dependent (MFTD waiver). It also requires the creation of a new state plan amendment. Both approvals must be in place to allow for this change.

- The University of Illinois Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) worked closely with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to incorporate this rule into the MFTD waiver. This waiver amendment, including these changes, is currently under federal review for approval.
- The other approval necessary to allow LRAs who are CNAs to be paid caregivers involves creating a new state plan amendment. DSCC has worked with HFS to develop this amendment. We are currently awaiting next steps from HFS.

There is currently no set timeline for these approvals. DSCC will notify you as quickly as possible once they are approved.

As a reminder, parents/LRAs who are paid caregivers (CNA, RN, LPN) cannot be compensated for providing respite services. Nursing agencies also cannot receive reimbursement for training LRA-paid caregivers.

If you have any questions, please contact your DSCC Care Coordinator at (800) 322-3722.