UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

Division of Specialized Care for Children

PROVIDER NOTICE

Date: May 12, 2026

Dear Home Nursing Agency,

We partnered with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to share these updates and changes. We previously shared that legislation was passed to allow legally responsible caregivers who are certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to be paid for providing care for their child enrolled in the Home Care Program.

At this time, **we are still waiting for full approval** to allow this option for the full Home Care population. However, we want to share an important update:

Effective May 27, approval will be in place for Home Care participants age 21 or older enrolled in the MFTD Waiver.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

LRAs who are CNAs are now allowed to be paid CNA caregivers to their child only if their child is age 21 or older.

This change does not yet apply to families of children under age 21.

WHY IS THIS LIMITED TO AGE 21 AND OLDER?

There are two different authorities for home nursing services. There is one for those under age 21 and one for those over age 21. We have not yet received approval for those under 21.

Here are important details about this new service for individuals aged 21 and older and enrolled in the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Those Who Are Medically Fragile and Technology Dependent (MFTD waiver):

Who is a Legally Responsible Adult (LRA)?

An LRA can legally make decisions for a child or adult receiving care through the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC).

- For adults, the LRA may be a court-appointed guardian. Someone caring for themselves cannot be paid to do so, even if they are their own LRA.

Important Update: CNA Supervision Requirements

- CNAs must receive supervision from a nurse from the agency.
- EFFECTIVE May 27: Supervision is required every 60 days for all CNAs. (no longer every two weeks).

Guidelines for an LRA to be a Paid CNA Caregiver

LRAs must:

- Hold a CNA certification in Illinois.
- Be a trained caregiver for the Home Care participant (a healthcare professional must approve this).
- Pass all background checks, just like home nurses.
- Be employed through a DSCC-approved nursing agency and stay in good standing.
- Keep clear charting of CNA duties provided within the CNA scope of practice.
- Receive supervision from a nurse from the agency at least once every 60 days. Effective on May 27, supervisory visits for CNAs are now required every 60 days, rather than every two weeks (Illinois Department of Public Health administrative code, Part 245 Home Health, Home Services, and Home Nursing Agency Code).

Please note that the paid CNA LRA can only be paid for tasks that fall within the scope of CNA duties. These duties include personal care, mobility assistance, vital sign monitoring, equipment cleaning, communication assistance, etc.

While the trained and paid CNA LRA may provide additional care beyond CNA duties, such as trach/vent care, medication administration, etc., they cannot receive payment for their time on non-CNA tasks.

If the paid CNA LRA is not a trained caregiver, someone who is trained must be present during their shifts.

Other Important Notes:

- Paid CNA LRA caregivers cannot be paid for respite care or nurse training.
- Paid CNA LRAs can provide overtime. The number of paid CNA LRA caregiving hours cannot exceed the participant's total resource allocation.
- The nursing agency must bill correctly and mark LRA hours using the required code (U7). The coding to use is T1004 with a U7 modifier.
- Paid LRAs must still clock in and out to meet Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements.
- The nursing agency will review the caregiver guidelines with any LRA who will be paid to provide care. After the review, both the caregiver and the agency will sign the form. The agency must submit the signed form confirming that the LRA understands the rules before paid care begins.

Resources and Support:

- We have a fact sheet on guidelines and tips for parents working as CNAs. It can help you understand the requirements, services and resources available to make the process easier and more manageable.
- We've also put together a Certified Nursing Assistant Resources Tip Sheet to help guide you through the steps to become a CNA. It links to several websites for your convenience and provides general guidelines.

You can also find these tip sheets in English and Spanish on our Home Care Nursing Information for Families page at https://dscc.uic.edu/home-care-nursing-information-for-families.

Please note that we are also updating our "DSCC Guidelines for Paid LRA Caregivers" and "DSCC Guidelines for Certified Nursing Assistants" forms to reflect the updates we shared above.

We're here to help ensure the process is smooth and safe for everyone involved. If you have any questions, please contact your DSCC Nursing Agency Liaison.

Thank you for your continued service to the Home Care Program's participants and their families.