

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



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October 9, 2020

Nicole Comeaux  
Director, Medical Assistance Division  
New Mexico Human Services Department  
State Capitol  
Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Ms. Comeaux:

We are writing to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving New Mexico's request to update the "New Mexico Centennial Care 2.0" (Project No. 11-W-00286/6) Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K with an addendum in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been incorporated into the demonstration's Special Terms and Conditions by adding it on to Attachment Q.

The authorities that the state has requested in Attachment Q are effective from January 27, 2020 through January 26, 2021, and apply in all locations served by the demonstration for anyone impacted by COVID-19 who receives home and community-based services through the demonstration.

We have included the approved Attachment Q Addendum pages with this correspondence.

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Michael Trieger of my staff at (410) 786-0745 or by e-mail at [Michael.Trieger1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Trieger1@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Angela D. Garner  
Director  
Division of System Reform Demonstrations

Enclosure

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cc: Peter Banks, State Monitoring Lead, CMS Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

# APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response and COVID-19 Addendum

**Background:**

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendments to its approved waiver, to multiple approved waivers in the state, and/or to all approved waivers in the state. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.<sup>i</sup> This appendix may be applied retroactively as needed by the state. Public notice requirements normally applicable under 1915(c) do not apply to information contained in this Appendix.

## Appendix K-1: General Information

**General Information:**

- A. **State:** New Mexico
- B. **Waiver Title(s):** Centennial Care 2.0 1115 Waiver Demonstration
- C. **Control Number(s):**  
11W00285/6

**D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Pandemic or Epidemic</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Natural Disaster</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>National Security Emergency</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Environmental</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other (specify):</b>

**E. Brief Description of Emergency.** *In no more than one paragraph each*, briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.

In response to the Declaration of a Public Health Emergency issued by the HHS Secretary, the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) seeks to amend specific requirements outlined in its approved 1115 Demonstration Waiver retroactive to January 27, 2020. The requirements are further identified below in this appendix K.

**F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date:** January 27, 2020 **Anticipated End Date:** January 26, 2021

**G. Description of Transition Plan.**

All activities will take place in response to the impact of COVID-19 as efficiently and effectively as possible based upon the complexity of the change.

**H. Geographic Areas Affected:**

These actions will apply across the waiver to all individuals impacted by the COVID-19 virus

**I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) Reference to external documents is acceptable:**

N/A

**Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver**

**Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:**

*These are changes that, while directly related to the state’s response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.*

**a. Access and Eligibility:**

**i. Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.**

[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

NA

**ii. \_\_\_ Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.**

[Explanation of changes]

NA

**b. \_\_\_ Services**

**i. \_\_\_ Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.**

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

**ii. \_\_\_ Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.**

[Explanation of changes]

NA

**iii. \_\_\_ Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).**

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

**iv. X Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches). Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:**

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

The state requests the flexibility to allow providers, in consultation with the state's licensing agency, to provide services in alternative settings including settings that are licensed for other purposes (i.e. residential providing using a day program facility) or unlicensed settings (i.e. hotels, schools, churches and/or permanent or temporary shelters) for residential or day programming in an effort to mitigate COVID-19 spread.

Temporarily allow the following expanded service settings in accordance with HIPAA requirements:

Occupational Therapy for Adults:

- Face-to-face visits may be provided by telehealth option or phone visits. This includes assessment, monitoring or follow up. All interactions will be documented.
- Trainings and return demonstrations may be done by telehealth or phone as needed.

Physical Therapy for Adults:

- Face-to-face visits may be provided by telehealth option or phone visits. This includes assessment, monitoring or follow up. All interactions will be documented.
- Trainings and return demonstrations may be done by telehealth or phone as needed.

Speech and Language Therapy for Adults:

- Face-to-face visits may be provided by telehealth option or phone visits. This includes assessment, monitoring or follow up. All interactions will be documented.
- Trainings and return demonstrations may be done by telehealth or phone as needed.

Customized Community Supports:

- Community Customized Supports can be provided in the home.

Behavior Support Consultation:

- Face-to-face visits may be provided by telehealth option or phone visits. This includes assessment, monitoring or follow up. All interactions will be documented.
- Trainings and return demonstrations may be done by telehealth or phone as needed.

Private Duty Nursing for Adults:

- Face-to-face visits may be provided by telehealth option or phone visits. This includes assessment, monitoring or follow up. All interactions will be documented.
- Trainings and return demonstrations may be done by telehealth or phone as

needed.

**v. \_\_\_ Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver).** [Explanation of changes]

**c. X Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver.** Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.

To address health and welfare issues of participants presented by the emergency, allow legally responsible individuals such as a spouse to provide personal care services (PCS).

**d. X Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).**

**i. X Temporarily modify provider qualifications.**

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

Temporarily allow provider enrollment or re-enrollment with modified risk screening elements such as suspending fingerprint checks, or modifying training requirements to all HCBS service providers. New Mexico providers must conduct employee abuse registry screenings and document that screening has occurred.

**ii. \_\_\_ Temporarily modify provider types.**

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the provider type for each service].

**iii. \_\_\_ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.**

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

**e. X Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements).** [Describe]

The New Mexico Human Services Department is suspending the Nursing Facility Level of Care (NF LOC) redetermination for impacted members for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. MCOs will continue to perform NF LOC assessments and submit NF LOC determinations as they are completed. MCOs will continue their processes to ensure that prior authorizations for PCS, nursing facilities, and other long-term services and supports are in place.

**f. Temporarily increase payment rates.**

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider.]

[Empty box for response]

**g. X Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.**

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

The MCOs are required to continue all care coordination activities using telephonic visits, or, if the capacity exists for the member and MCO, virtual visits. Care coordination activities that normally require an in-home visit with face-to-face member interaction include initial, annual, and semi-annual Comprehensive Needs Assessments (CNAs); semi-annual and annual in-person touch points; transition of care three-day in-home assessments; and NF LOC determinations for community benefits.

**h. X Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances.** [Explanation of changes]

The requirement to conduct a neglect investigation of any incident of deviation in staffing as outlined in an individual plan may be suspended.

The requirement to submit an incident report for Abuse Neglect and Exploitation for any deviation in staffing as outlined in an individual plan may be suspended. If this requirement is suspended, providers must report any incidents in which staffing shortages result in a failure to provide care via General Events Reporting.



**i. X Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.**

[Specify the services.]

The State will allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants by allowing personal care services in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports are not available in that setting during this emergency. The payments may only be made for up to 30 consecutive days.

**j. X Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.**

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

The State will temporarily include retainer payments for approved personal care services. The personal assistance retainer time limit may not exceed the lesser of 30 consecutive days or the number of days for which the State authorizes a payment for "bed-hold" in nursing facilities.

Retainer payments will not be authorized when a provider is providing services and will only occur on a case by case basis when a member is directly impacted by the emergency, i.e., sequestered and/or quarantined based on local, state, federal and/or medical requirements/orders.

**k. \_\_\_ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.**

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards.]

**l. \_\_\_ Increase Factor C.**

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

**m. \_\_\_ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of**

individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

## Appendix K Addendum: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

### 1. HCBS Regulations

- a.  Not comply with the HCBS settings requirement at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)(vi)(D) that individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time, for settings added after March 17, 2014, to minimize the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2. Services

- a.  Add an electronic method of service delivery (e.g., telephonic) allowing services to continue to be provided remotely in the home setting for:
  - i.  Case management
  - ii.  Personal care services that only require verbal cueing
  - iii.  In-home habilitation
  - iv.  Monthly monitoring (i.e., in order to meet the reasonable indication of need for services requirement in 1915(c) waivers).
  - v.  Other *[Describe]*:

- b.  Add home-delivered meals
- c.  Add medical supplies, equipment and appliances (over and above that which is in the state plan)
- d.  Add Assistive Technology

### 3. Conflict of Interest: The state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic personnel crisis by authorizing case management entities to provide direct services. Therefore, the case management entity qualifies under 42 CFR 441.301(c)(1)(vi) as the only willing and qualified entity.

- a.  Current safeguards authorized in the approved waiver will apply to these entities.
- b.  Additional safeguards listed below will apply to these entities.

### 4. Provider Qualifications

- a.  Allow spouses and parents of minor children to provide personal care services
- b.  Allow a family member to be paid to render services to an individual.

- c.  Allow other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver. *[Indicate the providers and their qualifications]*

- d.  Modify service providers for home-delivered meals to allow for additional providers, including non-traditional providers.

## 5. Processes

- a.  Allow an extension for reassessments and reevaluations for up to one year past the due date.
- b.  Allow the option to conduct evaluations, assessments, and person-centered service planning meetings virtually/remotely in lieu of face-to-face meetings.
- c.  Adjust prior approval/authorization elements approved in waiver.
- d.  Adjust assessment requirements
- e.  Add an electronic method of signing off on required documents such as the person-centered service plan.

## Contact Person(s)

### A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

**First Name:** Tallie  
**Last Name:** Tolen  
**Title:** Bureau Chief, Long-Term Services and Support Bureau  
**Agency:** Medical Assistance Division  
**Address 1:** 1 Plaza La Prensa  
**Address 2:**  
**City:** Santa Fe  
**State:** New Mexico  
**Zip Code:** 87507  
**Telephone:** 505-827-7013  
**E-mail:** [Tallie.Tolen@state.nm.us](mailto:Tallie.Tolen@state.nm.us)  
**Fax Number:** 505-827-3185

### B. If applicable, the State operating agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the waiver is:

**First Name:** Megan  
**Last Name** Pfeffer  
**Title:** Deputy Director, Medical Assistance Division  
**Agency:** Human Services Department  
**Address 1:** 1 Plaza la Prensa  
**Address 2:**  
**City** Santa Fe  
**State** New Mexico  
**Zip Code** 87507  
**Telephone:** 505-412-0617  
**E-mail** [Megan.Pfeffer@state.nm.us](mailto:Megan.Pfeffer@state.nm.us)  
**Fax Number** 505-827-3185

## 8. Authorizing Signature

**Signature:**

**Date:** April 21, 2020



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State Medicaid Director or Designee

**First Name:** Nicole  
**Last Name** Comeaux  
**Title:** Director, Medical Assistance Division  
**Agency:** Human Services Department  
**Address 1:** 1 Plaza La Prensa  
**Address 2:**  
**City** Santa Fe  
**State** New Mexico  
**Zip Code** 87507  
**Telephone:** 505-827-7704  
**E-mail** [Nicole.Comeax@state.nm.us](mailto:Nicole.Comeax@state.nm.us)  
**Fax Number** 505-827-3185

## Section A---Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency

Complete for each service added during a time of emergency. For services in the approved waiver that the state is temporarily modifying, enter the entire service definition and highlight the change. State laws, regulations and policies referenced in the specification should be readily available to CMS upon request through the Medicaid agency or the operating agency (if applicable).

Service Specification				
Service Title:				
<i>Complete this part for a renewal application or a new waiver that replaces an existing waiver. Select one:</i>				
Service Definition (Scope):				
Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:				
Provider Specifications				
Provider Category(s) <i>(check one or both):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual. List types:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agency. List the types of agencies:
Specify whether the service may be provided by <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legally Responsible Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relative/Legal Guardian
<b>Provider Qualifications</b> <i>(provide the following information for each type of provider):</i>				
Provider Type:	License <i>(specify)</i>	Certificate <i>(specify)</i>	Other Standard <i>(specify)</i>	
<b>Verification of Provider Qualifications</b>				
Provider Type:	Entity Responsible for Verification:		Frequency of Verification	
<b>Service Delivery Method</b>				
Service Delivery Method <i>(check each that applies):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Participant-directed as specified in Appendix E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provider managed



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<sup>i</sup> Numerous changes that the state may want to make may necessitate authority outside of the scope of section 1915(c) authority. States interested in changes to administrative claiming or changes that require section 1115 or section 1135 authority should engage CMS in a discussion as soon as possible. Some examples may include: (a) changes to administrative activities, such as the establishment of a hotline; or (b) suspension of general Medicaid rules that are not addressed under section 1915(c) such as payment rules or eligibility rules or suspension of provisions of section 1902(a) to which 1915(c) is typically bound.