



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 14, 2025

TO: Providers of Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services

FROM: Anthony Newman, Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services^{AJN}

RE: Clarification on Billing Supported Living (T2017)

Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) would like to offer the following clarification regarding Supported Living Services.

Supported Living Services are authorized for a recipient 18 years of age or older living full-time in that recipient's private residence. A private residence is defined in regulation (7 AAC 130.319) as a home that a recipient owns or rents, or a home where the recipient resides with other family members or friends. The service is provided on a one-to-one basis.

Supported Living services are provided, for the most part, in the recipient's private residence. However, because some skills development may be enhanced by activities in community settings, services may be rendered in other environments provided the settings are appropriate for delivery of the services in a manner that will contribute the acquisition of skills necessary for daily living in the recipient's residence and are approved in the recipient's support plan.

When a team identifies that skill development necessary for independent living is required to be completed through activities in the community, the team must ensure that those activities are supported by the goals outlined within the recipient's support plan, under the service of Supported Living. Community-based activities that support essential daily living skills involve tasks commonly required by individuals residing in private homes. For example, grocery shopping, visiting the post office to retrieve or send mail, doing laundry at the laundromat, picking up medications at the pharmacy, and other short trips into the community to accomplish specific tasks pertaining to daily living are all types of activities that can occur outside the recipient's residence but that can be considered to contribute toward independent living.

Skill development necessary for independent living that is required to be completed through activities in the community is distinct from the service of Day Habilitation. Day Habilitation is provided with the explicit purpose of developing or retaining skills and functioning reasonably necessary for community integration. The service of Day Habilitation provides recipients with opportunities that promote connections to natural supports or the greater community through active teaching and training. Skill building activities provided under Day Habilitation often have a social component, and/or focus on skills necessary to engage in one's greater community effectively and safely. Examples of these activities include meeting friends in the community for socialization activities, attending local events, regular participation in a fitness class at a local gym, participating in a hobby class or club, and other activities which promote integration into the greater community.

SDS is committed to developing further training on Supported Living to provide clarification on when this service can be utilized in a community setting and how it differs from Day Habilitation services. The Division has recently received national technical assistance on this topic to learn how Alaska defines this service, as compared to other states. The technical assistance demonstrated that states implement Supported Living in a variety of ways, using different service definitions, units of service, and service exclusions. The information provided through the technical assistance will be used to explore and consider changes and clarifications to providing Supported Living services in Alaska in the future. SDS will evaluate these options during the upcoming waiver renewal process.