



AUGUST 17, 2020 | COMMUNICATION BULLETIN ISSUE 8

IN THIS ISSUE: Updated Appendix K Reporting Form Available

Updated Appendix K Reporting Form Available

Vaya Health has published a new version of the [COVID-19 Appendix K Reporting Form](#), which now includes a section to designate the use of home-delivered meals and the use of N.C. Innovations Waiver services outside of school hours.

Meal Preparation and Delivery, often referred to as “Meals on Wheels”, is a new service being temporarily added to the Waiver program. Through this service, Waiver participants who require special assistance with nutritional planning, based on an assessment of their needs, may be allowed to receive up to two nutritious meals per day.

The longstanding rule that Waiver, (b)(3) services and non-Medicaid services may not be provided to school-aged Waiver participants while school is actively in session continues to be in effect during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. **According to the most recent guidance from N.C. DHHS and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), virtual, hybrid and homeschool days are equivalent to traditional school days.** Beginning with the first day of the 2020-21 school year, the Waiver limits on sets of services for children (54 hours during in-school weeks/84 hours during out-of-school weeks) applies. Waiver services may not be used during the hours in which school is in session (including virtual, hybrid and homeschool sessions) or for the member’s transportation to and from the school setting.

Parents of Waiver participants who need educational support to participate in virtual school should communicate with their local education authorities about how their child’s school plans to support the member in a virtual environment as required under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). For more details, see [N.C. DHHS LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J372: IDD Medicaid and State-Funded Service Delivery During School Hours](#), which explains that various methods of documentation may be utilized by the provider or Employer of Record to demonstrate that Waiver, (b)(3) services and non-Medicaid services do not overlap with the time that school system educational services are being provided. **Providers should be aware that any services that are found to overlap in violation of this requirement are subject to a notice of overpayment and the potential for recoupment.**

Providers must use the revised form to request extension of Appendix K flexibilities beginning Aug. 17, 2020, through the end of the member’s plan year, or until March 12, 2021, whichever date is earlier. If a flexibility is requested on an older version of the form, the form will be returned to the provider with a request to re-submit the flexibility on the newest version of the Appendix K Reporting Form.

Reminders:

- Innovations Waiver participants must transition to pre-emergency service status as soon as they are able.
- Innovations service providers must submit an Appendix K Reporting Form to Vaya for each member that needs to utilize Appendix K flexibilities or exceptions due to COVID-19.
- Providers must submit the Appendix K Reporting Form via encrypted email to the member's assigned care manager prior to implementing a new flexibility. If you cannot get in touch with the member's assigned care manager, contact Vaya's Member Services Department at 1-800-849-6127. When using an Appendix K flexibility, providers are required to bill using the CR modifier. Refer to the [Vaya Health Billing and Documentation Guide for COVID-19 Telehealth and Clinical Policy Modifications](#) for guidance on billing codes related to COVID-19 flexibilities.

