



## Clinical Medical Policy Extended Home Care – HHA Hours

### **Benefit Coverage:**

Approval of home care services is based upon review of medical necessity.

### **Description:**

Home Care Services include those services provided under a home care plan authorized by a physician including full-time, part-time, or intermittent care by a licensed nurse or home health aide (certified nursing assistant) for patient care. Extended Pediatric Home Health Aide (HHA) care is scheduled as “block hours” as opposed to “visits”, and is utilized to deliver medically necessary care, which cannot be performed in a standard home care visit.

Home care services also include homemaking services that are incidental to the client’s health needs such as making the client’s bed, cleaning the client’s living area, such as bedroom and bathroom, and doing the client’s laundry and shopping. <sup>1</sup> Homemaking services are only covered when the RIte Care member also needs personal care services, and are considered for adult members approved for HHA block hours or visits for personal care related to activities of daily living.

### **Coverage Determination:**

Prior authorization and medical review is required.

The criteria used to approve a HHA is based on medical necessity, which allows for personal care services to be performed by a licensed HHA to assist the member and/or caregiver in obtaining a certain level of independence with their Activities of Daily Living (ADLs.)

Upon receiving orders from a physician, the contracted NHPRI Home Care Agency submits the “NHPRI Home Health Aide Authorization Request” form, indicating required services for the specific member.

The form allows member or caregiver’s ability to perform activities of daily living to be classified as:

- Independent with care (able to do on their own with very minimal assistance)
- Moderate dependence (needs some assistance with set-up/process and/or ambulating)
- Dependent for care (cannot perform on their own without extensive assistance)

Children under age 3 years will usually not qualify for HHA block hours as the expectation is the parent or caregiver will provide the activities of daily living. Short term HHA block hours may be considered for a transition period when there has been a recent hospitalization and/or potential for a readmission exists.

Rhody Health Plan members may qualify for home care services through a waiver program. Medical Management staff coordinate referrals and communicate as necessary with the waiver programs.



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### Criteria:

Based on documentation received on the NHPRI Home Health Aide Authorization Request form, the following categories are evaluated for care required and time required to complete the care, with points being assigned based on amount of assistance required to complete the activity:

- Member's age, weight and height
- Activities of Daily Living (Bath, grooming, dressing, eating)
- Hours primary caretaker available
- Hours a day member attends school
- Bowel/ Bladder – continence status
- Mobility

In addition, individual consideration is given to:

- Diagnosis and impact on primary caregiver's ability to care for the member
- Recent Admission and/or potential for readmission
- Homemaking services may be considered for adult RItE Care members who are also approved for HHA services for personal care related to activities of daily living

All points are summarized to determine number of hours the member is eligible to receive. The "Neighborhood Home Health Aide Point System" is utilized to determine this information.

### Covered Procedures:

### Exclusions:

Neighborhood does not cover a HHA to perform skills that are outside their scope of practice nor does Neighborhood cover respite care, relief care or daycare for members.

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**CMP Number:** CMP-020.01

**CMP Cross Reference:**

**References:** Functional Independent Measure (FIM) Scores – a nationally recognized rehabilitation tool based on a patient's ability to conduct basic ADLs

**Created:**

**Annual Review Month:**

**Review Dates:** 11/09

**Revised Dates:** 11/10/09

**CMC Review Dates:** 12/14/06, 1/12/09, 1/12/10, 1/11/11

**CMO Approval Dates:** 12/14/06, 1/12/09, 1/12/10, 2/14/11

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<sup>1</sup> Contract Between State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Department of Human Services and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, Inc. For the Provision of Health Care Services, Section 1.17, Jan.2005.