

Private Duty Nursing

PURPOSE

Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services are for members who require more individual or continuous care than is available from a visiting nurse. The services must be provided by a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) in a member's home or other approved setting under the direction of the member's physician.

APPLICABILITY

ND Medicaid covers services provided by PDN agencies that are licensed and enrolled with ND Medicaid. The services must be provided by a RN or an LPN in a member's home or other approved setting under the direction of the member's physician.

DEFINITIONS

Plan of Care - the plan developed by the PDN agency in response to the attending physician or other licensed practitioner's written orders to the agency prescribing the needed services and the duration of those services.

Member – the individual who is eligible for Medicaid.

COVERED SERVICES AND LIMITS

ND Medicaid covers PDN services that meet the following criteria:

- Medically necessary;
- Authorized under a ND Medicaid service authorization (SA);
- Provided in the member's residence, or other approved setting, as authorized. The member's residence must not be an intermediate care facility for individual with intellectual disabilities; and institution for individuals with a mental disease, hospital, or nursing facility;
- Provided to a member who requires more patient care than could be provided by a home health agency or professional day care when a condition or illness would result in institutionalization if not cared for at home;
- Parent, guardian, or primary caregiver is committed to and capable of performing skills necessary to ensure quality of care and a safe environment for the periods of time when PDN services are not provided;
- Member's physician orders the PDN services;
- PDN agency must complete an evaluation and create a Plan of Care;
- Plan of Care signed by the ordering physician;
- [SFN 224](#) Private Duty Nursing Service Authorization and the Home Health Certification and Plan of Care, along with medical records to support the requested care are submitted for determination of covered PDN hours.

- Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment, shall be provided by the PDN agency at no cost to the employee or member.

ND Medicaid contracts with Acentra. This nationally recognized clinical support tool uses evidence-based criteria to help determine if a member needs a certain level of care or services based on the member's needs (e.g., InterQual) and determines the number of covered PDN hours. Please note that hours approved may be less than or equal to what the physician has ordered and is based upon clinical documentation supplied and the evidence-based criteria.

Limits

ND Medicaid PDN coverage is limited to:

- Hours determined medically necessary;
- Hours requested by the ordering physician
- Hours that guardian(s) work and travel to work; or
- Hours that guardian(s) attend school and travel to school; or
- Additional hours for sleep may be allocated for up to 8 hours per 24-hour period when the member's condition and care plan requires intensive nursing interventions and monitoring. Examples of intensive nursing interventions and monitoring include trach and vent dependency with frequent suctioning or the need for ongoing oxygen monitoring, frequent seizure activity with interventions or other prescribed medically necessary service(s) required with a frequency of every 2 hours or more.

PDN hours are not 24 hours/7days a week and cannot be used for respite.

Developmental Disability and HCBS waiver participants may request respite services from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Parent/Guardian(s) are responsible for notifying the PDN agency of their work/school schedule. The PDN agency must document and provide this information in the Plan of Care and SA request in addition to [SFN 197](#) North Dakota Medicaid Private Duty Nursing Parent/Guardian Attestation. Parent/Guardian(s) and the PDN agency are responsible for using their hours in accordance with North Dakota Medicaid policy.

PDN services are limited to one nurse in a member's residence or other approved setting at a time per member. Medicaid will only cover more than one nurse in the member's residence or other approved setting for multiple members in the same residence or approved setting if all members require intensive nursing interventions and monitoring. These interventions and monitoring include trach and vent dependency with frequent suctioning or the need for oxygen monitoring, frequent seizure activity with

interventions, or other prescribed medically necessary nursing interventions required with a frequency of every 2 hours or more.

SERVICE AUTHORIZATION

PDN agencies must submit the following information with their SA request:

- [SFN 224](#) Private Duty Nursing Service Authorization,
- [SFN 197](#) North Dakota Medicaid Private Duty Nursing Parent/Guardian Attestation,
- Medical records, and
- Home Health Certification and Plan of Care signed by the practitioner.

PDN authorizations are limited to a maximum of 60 days per authorization. If a reauthorization is being requested, an updated plan of care, indicating the need for continued PDN services, signed by the attending physician and a current [SFN 197](#) North Dakota Medicaid Private Duty Nursing Parent/Guardian Attestation must be submitted. It must be received by ND Medicaid prior to the service being done and before the next 60-day period. If the service authorization is not received prior to the 60-day time period, the PDN hours will be denied.

Requests not meeting these criteria may be returned, denied, or rejected as incomplete. Providers may include letters or narrative with their request for service authorization; however, information supplied in a letter or narrative does not supplant the need for documentation supporting medical necessity in the medical record.

SA requests are to be submitted to [Acentra](#).

NONCOVERED SERVICES

- Custodial or sitter care to ensure compliance with treatment;
- Respite care outside of what is allowed for the guardian(s) as described in the Covered Services and Limits section of this policy;
- Behavioral or eating disorders;
- Observation or monitoring for medical conditions not requiring skilled nursing;
- Hours while the child is at school or in other supervised settings;
- Services provided in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities or an institution for individuals with mental disease or nursing facility

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The PDN agency must keep on file copies of all documents submitted to ND Medicaid. Approved SAs are dependent on the member's eligibility during the approved SA period.

BILLING AND REIMBURSEMENT

ND Medicaid covers the following services:

- S9124 Skilled Nursing (LPN)
- S9123 Skilled Nursing (RN)

FAQs

Q: How does a member get services?

A: A practitioner must write the order. The member or guardian should contact a PDN agency to obtain an evaluation and plan of care. Once a plan of care is written, the practitioner must sign the plan of care. That plan and medical documentation is then sent by the PDN agency to NDMA/Acentra to request a service authorization determination. A PDN agency can provide services according to the schedule established.

Q: Can a child receive PDN services while in school?

A: No, the child cannot receive PDN services while in school. School districts may provide nursing services, based upon medical necessity, during the school day.

Q: Does the RN/LPN need to be employed by a Medicaid enrolled PDN agency?

A: Yes, RNs and LPNs must be employed by a Medicaid enrolled PDN agency.

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