



Proposed Waiver Renewal Mechanical Ventilator Dependent Waiver

BACKGROUND: This waiver provides services for persons dependent upon mechanical ventilation who are 21 and older who meet all other medical criteria for nursing facility placement. The waiver was originally approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 1994 and has been subsequently renewed three times. The waiver provides a variety of in-home services including incontinence supplies, personal care services, home delivered meals and attendant care. The most critical service in this waiver is private duty nursing, in which a licensed nurse provides care in the home environment.

Because of the substantial medical needs of persons dependent upon mechanical ventilation, this population would require hospitalization or placement at a specialized nursing facility in the absence of the waiver services. At this time, South Carolina has twenty (20) nursing facility beds designated for ventilator dependent care. The cost for this care is substantially higher than other nursing facility rates.

The waiver currently serves thirty-five (35) participants statewide. In order to continue to serve this special population in the least restrictive environment, this renewal application must be submitted to CMS by August 30, 2012, for approval.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) anticipates no major changes in the proposed in renewal; however, the Department is currently in discussions with CMS regarding the coverage of incontinence supplies under Medicaid. The outcome of these discussions will impact waiver services as the state may be directed to cover incontinence supplies through another appropriate authority under the state Medical plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2012 pending CMS approval