

# **Medically Complex Children (MCC) Waiver Amendment**

**June 18, 2024**

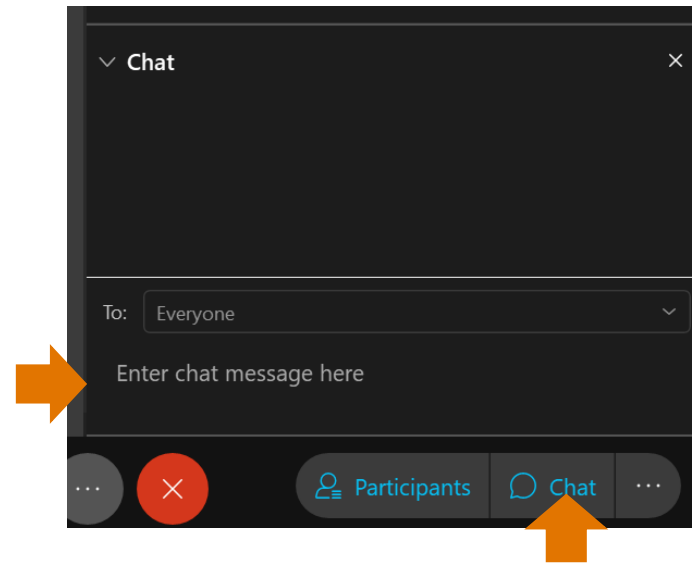
**The meeting will begin shortly.  
Microphones are muted.**

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**Thank you for participating in the  
public webinar.**

# Meeting Logistics

- Attendee lines will be muted for the duration of the webinar to minimize disruption.
- Attendees are welcome to add questions or comments during the specified public comment period.
- Use the chat feature in Webex.



# **Medically Complex Children (MCC) Waiver Amendment SC.0675**

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Margaret Alewine, Chief of Policy

# Background

- South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) intends to file a waiver amendment with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the MCC SC.0675 1915(c) waiver.
- The purpose of the amendment is to add self-directed attendant care as a service to the waiver.

# MCC Waiver Overview

- Established in 2008
- Serves Medicaid-eligible children aged birth to 21 with chronic physical/health condition(s) expected to last at least 12 months
- Applicants must meet hospital level of care
- Current census: **1,834\***

*\*As of April 2024*

# MCC Covered Services

- Nurse care coordination
- Respite
- Environmental modifications
- Pediatric medical day care
- Attendant care\*

*\*Service impacted by current amendment*

# Changes – Attendant Care Service

- Attendant care for children enrolled in the MCC waiver is defined as extensive hands-on assistance for at least two of the seven key activities of daily living (ADLs) (i.e., bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, hygiene, mobility and transferring).
- MCC attendant care is intended to provide **extraordinary** direct care services to children aged birth through 20 years old who need hands-on assistance with ADLs that cannot be completed in an age-appropriate manner.

# Changes – Attendant Care Service *(cont.)*

- **Extraordinary** care exceeds the range of activities that a legally responsible individual would ordinarily perform in the household on behalf of a person without a disability or chronic illness of the same age, and which are necessary to assure the health and welfare of the participant and avoid institutionalization.
- An evaluation by a licensed professional determines when a child who has not reached the developmental milestones for his or her chronological age for the ADLs is considered to require assistance with ADLs.



# Changes – Attendant Care Service *(cont.)*

- The licensed professional must be directly involved in the child's medical care.
- The service must be medically necessary and must be furnished in the participant's home.
- The service is subject to electronic visit verification requirements.

# Changes – Attendant Qualifications

- Attendants must be at least 18 years of age, pass a background check and meet all Healthy Connections Medicaid provider qualifications.
- Attendants must certify successful completion of CPR, First Aid and other training specific to the child's condition(s) and demonstrate competency in caring for the participant.

# Effective Date

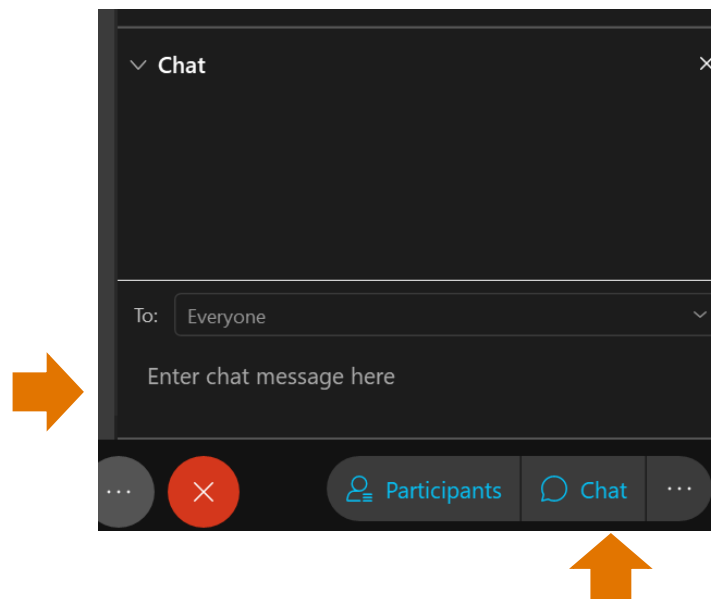
- SCDHHS will request an effective date of on or after October 1, 2024.
- Final effective date is based on CMS approval.
- Effective date means the date that the service will first be available to request.
  - There are steps required to complete before services can start.

# Attendant Care Requirements

- Steps that must be completed prior to the start of services include:
  - Assessment to determine need for attendant care service
    - Includes evaluation by licensed professional involved in participant's medical care with specific competencies documented
  - Addition of service to waiver service plan by waiver care coordinator
  - Completion of background screening and documentation of required training
  - Scheduling and completion of nurse match visit to verify ability to complete identified tasks

# Public Comment

Attendees who wish to comment, please use the chat feature now.



# Public Comments

**Public comments are due no later than  
June 24, 2024**

- Email:

[Comments@scdhhs.gov](mailto:Comments@scdhhs.gov)

- Mail:

SC Department of Health and Human Services

Attention: Janice Bailiff

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