



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

700 GOVERNORS DRIVE

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04/11/2025

Attention: Private Duty Nursing Agencies

From: South Dakota Medicaid

RE: Immediate Family Members/Members of the Household Providing Care

Thank you for the swift action that Private Duty Nursing agencies took to begin to identify and work with families impacted by the clarification sent earlier this week about immediate family members as paid caregivers.

We appreciate the staffing challenge this may present and recognize the disruption this means to patients and caregivers. We are extending the date by which agencies must make other staffing arrangements by 6 months to allow greater time for us to work in partnership to identify options.

During this extension, DSS will also work with you and families to review and further update the guidance around these services. As described in South Dakota Medicaid's [General Coverage Principles](#) Provider Manual, PDN services are intended to be used for care that a parent otherwise cannot provide (example when parents are working outside the home). This health insurance benefit does not cover custodial care.

Access to care and options to meet complex health needs is difficult in many areas of our state. We understand this issue and are aware that there may be extraordinary case circumstances that warrant additional review. SD will explore the feasibility of a waiver or exceptions process for addressing circumstances where no alternative options can be identified.

Sincerely,

Heather Petermann
Medicaid Director
South Dakota Medicaid

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre SD 57501, 605-773-3305.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).