



OPERATIONAL MEMO

Title: Children with Complex Health Needs (CwCHN): New Children's Waiver Combining the Children's Home and Community-Based Services (CHCBS) and Children's Life Limiting Illness (CLLI) Waivers	Topic: HCBS
Audience: Case Managers, Case Management Agencies (CMAs), Providers	Sub-Topic: HCBS-Multiple
Supersedes Number: N/A	Division: Benefits and Services
Effective Date: July 1, 2025	Office: Office of Community Living
Expiration Date: July 1, 2027	Program Area: HCBS Services
Key Words: Children's Home and Community-Based Services (CHCBS) Waiver, Children's Life Limiting Illness (CLLI) Waiver, Case Managers, Case Management Agency (CMAs)	
Legal Authority: HB25-1003 Children Complex Health Needs Waiver, C.R.S. §25.5-1-301 through §25.5-1-303 (2024), 10 CCR 2505-10 §8.7101.D	
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Operational Memo Number: HCPF OM 25-024 Issue Date: April 30, 2025 Approved By: Colin Laughlin	

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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform Members enrolled in the Children's Home and Community-Based Services (CHCBS) and Children with Life Limiting Illness (CLLI) waivers, Case Managers, Case Management Agencies (CMAs), and Providers that the CHCBS and CLLI waivers will be merged and retitled as the Children with Complex Health Needs (CwCHN) waiver available starting on July 1, 2025. In addition, this memo will provide operational guidance to CMAs for the upcoming transition.

Information:

The CwCHN waiver will provide expanded access to services while ensuring Members maintain waiver and Health First Colorado eligibility with the implementation of

Community First Choice (CFC). The implementation of CFC on July 1, 2025, moves the In-Home Support and Services - Health Maintenance Activities (IHSS-HMA) service from the CHCBS waiver into CFC. This will leave only one service on the CHCBS waiver, the Wellness Education Benefit (WEB), jeopardizing the state's federal authority to operate the waiver on an ongoing basis. Without federal authority to operate the waiver, Members enrolled in the CHCBS waiver would have been at risk of losing access to their waiver services and all other Health First Colorado benefits. Therefore, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is merging the CHCBS waiver into the CLLI waivers and retitling it as the CwCHN waiver which will ensure existing Members have continued access to waiver and Health First Colorado services while also expanding benefits and streamlining services for children.

The services available in the CwCHN waiver will include all services currently available in the CLLI waiver, with the addition of the WEB currently available in the CHCBS waiver. The waiver merger will not change service definitions, unit limitations, service codes/modifiers, or the way Case Managers authorize services.

CwCHN waiver services will include:

- Counseling/Bereavement Services
- Expressive Therapy
- Massage Therapy
- Palliative/Supportive Care
- Respite
- Therapeutic Life-Limiting Illness Support
- Wellness Education Benefit (WEB)

All CFC services will also be accessible to Members enrolled in the CwCHN waiver as long as they have an assessed need for those services. For example, Members currently enrolled in the CHCBS waiver will continue to have access to IHSS-HMA through CFC and CLLI waiver members will have new access to IHSS-HMA through CFC. Eligibility requirements for IHSS-HMA using age-appropriate guidelines will still apply when assessing children for services. The following services will be available under CFC:

- Personal Care

- Including the choice of using Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) or In-Home Support Services (IHSS), or traditional agency service delivery models
 - New task: Acquisition, Maintenance, and Enhancement of Skills (AME)
- Homemaker
 - Including the choice of using CDASS, IHSS, or traditional agency service delivery models
 - New task: Acquisition, Maintenance, and Enhancement of Skills (AME)
- Health Maintenance Activities
 - Including the choice of using CDASS or IHSS service delivery models
- Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)
- Medication Reminders
- Transition Setup
- Home Delivered Meals
- Remote Supports and Remote Supports Technology

CwCHN Eligibility Criteria:

The targeting criteria and Level of Care requirements have been expanded to include both the CLLI and CHCBS populations. Children will continue to be assessed using the ULTC 100.2 Level of Care assessment tool. The eligibility criteria for the CwCHN waiver is outlined below and in 10 CCR 2502-10 §8.7101.D.

- a. Is under 19 years of age,
- b. Meets a Level of Care, as determined by the state prescribed Level of Care (LOC) Assessment instrument, in one of the following:
 - i. Nursing Facility
 - ii. Hospital

1. To meet Hospital LOC for CwCHN, a Member must either:

- a. Have a diagnosis of a Life-Limiting Illness (i.e., a life-limiting medical condition or set of life-limiting medical conditions) as certified by a licensed medical professional and documented as prescribed by the Department upon enrollment.

Or

- b. One of the following conditions applies to the participant, as certified by a licensed medical professional and documented as prescribed by the Department upon enrollment:

Technologically dependent for life or health-sustaining functions,

Or

Complex medication regimen or medical interventions to maintain or improve health status,

Or

Need of ongoing assessment or intervention to prevent serious deterioration of health status or medical complications that place life, health, or development at risk.

Financial Eligibility:

To be financially eligible for the CwCHN waiver, the income and resources of the child should not exceed 300% of the current maximum Social Security Insurance (SSI) standard maintenance allowance. The CwCHN waiver will not require parental income and resources to be considered in financial eligibility determination, as CHCBS currently does. Therefore, with the implementation of CwCHN waiver, HCPF will have aligned financial eligibility policy for all children's HCBS waivers to have only the child's income and resources considered.

Action To Be Taken:

Case Managers and CMAs:

Case Managers shall inform Members enrolled in the CLLI waiver that their waiver will become the CwCHN waiver starting on July 1, 2025. In addition, Case Managers shall inform Members enrolled in the CHCBS waiver that they will be moved to the CwCHN

waiver between July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, during their Continued Stay Review (CSR) LOC Screen Reassessment and Person-Centered Support Planning (PSCP) process.

Case Managers completed the required CwCHN waiver training in February 2025. In addition, Case Managers attended system training for CFC the week of April 21, 2025, to cover more details on the following actions. Both of these trainings are available on the [Long-Term Services and Supports Training webpage](#).

For Members enrolled in the CLLI waiver:

- No action is required from Case Managers to enroll Members currently in the CLLI waiver into CwCHN. For CSR LOC Screen Reassessments, LOC assessments completed between May 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025, with a certification start date of July 1, 2025, or later, the Case Manager shall enroll Members currently in the CLLI waiver directly into the CLLI waiver and CFC services. On July 1, 2025, the CLLI waiver will experience a name change as documented on the CCM Program Card to CwCHN.
- Case Managers shall enroll Members enrolled in the CLLI waiver with renewal dates between July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, into CFC¹ at the time their CSR LOC Screen Reassessment if the Member wishes to receive and has an assessed need for additional CFC services. As long as the decision to enroll into CFC is made during the CSR process, it can be completed concurrently with no need for an additional LOC Screen or change in certification spans.
- Members enrolled in the CLLI waiver transitioning to CwCHN will not require a new Professional Medical Information Page (PMIP) or CwCHN Attestation form.

For Members enrolled in the CHCBS waiver:

- Case Managers shall enroll Members currently enrolled in the CHCBS waiver with renewal dates between July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, into CFC² and the CwCHN waiver at the time their CSR LOC Screen Reassessment and PCSP process.

¹ For additional information on guidance for CFC enrollments, please refer to the CFC Operational Memo.

²For additional information on guidance for CFC enrollments, please refer to the CFC Operational Memo.

- For CSR LOC Screen Reassessments, LOC assessments completed between May 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025, with a certification start date of July 1, 2025, or later, the Case Manager shall enroll Members currently in the CHCBS waiver directly into the CLLI waiver and CFC services. On July 1, 2025, the CLLI waiver will experience a name change to CwCHN as documented on the CCM Program Card.
- Members currently enrolled in the CHCBS waiver transitioning to CwCHN at CSR will not require a new PMIP or CwCHN Attestation form.
- **Case Managers shall not enroll new Members into the CHCBS waiver or create new CHCBS PARs with July 1, 2025, or later start dates.**

Newly Enrolling Members:

- Starting July 1, 2025, Case Managers will be able to see CwCHN in the systems and begin to directly enroll Members into this waiver.
- Case Managers shall complete all initial enrollments into the CwCHN waiver after July 1, 2025, using the new eligibility criteria, to include the CwCHN Attestation form.

Physician Attestation Form:

- The CwCHN Attestation form for newly enrolling children will need to be provided to the Member's physician, attesting to either a life-limiting illness or complex health needs. The physician will need to fill the form out, sign, and return to the Member or Case Manager along with supporting clinical documentation.
- This attestation form and supporting clinical documentation is required, in conjunction with the LOC Screen, to determine the individual's most appropriate level of care, eligibility for the CwCHN waiver, and for individuals to meet a hospital level of care. If a physician is unable to attest to hospital level of care, the Case Manager shall still proceed with the LOC Screen assessment process to determine whether the individual is eligible for nursing facility level of care.

Providers:

Provider Agencies providing services that are transitioning into the CwCHN waiver will continue to provide the same services, unless the Member decides to self-direct or

change Providers. Provider requirements and procedure codes currently under the CLLI waiver will be the same when the name is changed to the CwCHN waiver.

Attachment(s):

None

Links:

[Community First Choice \(CFC\) Program Implementation Operational Memo](#)

[Long-Term Services and Support Training Webpage](#)

[Children with Complex Health Needs Waiver Attestation Form](#)

[Case Manager Decision Tree for HCBS-CwCHN Level of Care and Targeting Criteria](#)

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