OPERATIONAL MEMO

Title: Nurse Assessor, Skilled Care Acuity Assessment & Pediatric Long-Term Home Health (LTHH) - Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) Prior Authorization Request (PAR) Delay	**Topic:** Benefits
Audience: Members, Families, Home Health Agencies (HHA), Case Management Agencies (CMA), Advocates	**Sub-Topic:** Implementation
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Key Words: Nurse Assessor, Skilled Care Acuity Assessment, Long-Term Home Health (LTHH), Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Certified Nursing Aide (CNA), Health Maintenance Activity (HMA), Case Management Agency (CMA)	
Legal Authority: 42 U.S.C. § 1396a	
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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform and provide guidance to members, advocates, Home Health Agencies (HHA), Case Management Agencies (CMAs) and all interested stakeholders of the delayed implementation of the Nurse Assessor, Skilled

Care Acuity Assessment, and Pediatric Long-Term Home Health (LTHH) Prior Authorization Request (PAR) Restart for Registered Nursing (RN), Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) and Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) services, to August 1, 2025. Additionally, Health Maintenance Activities (HMA) new oversight process will be delayed until August 1, 2025.

Information:

The Department has been working in collaboration with stakeholders to implement the Nurse Assessor and Skilled Care Acuity Assessment (SCAA), which will holistically assess members for the appropriate level of skilled care services across selected service modalities. The SCAA features questions designed to help the Nurse Assessor determine the level of support a member may need from a private duty nurse, certified nursing assistant (CNA), intermittent nursing visit, or health maintenance activities (HMA) within the Consumer Directed Attendant Support Service (CDASS) or In-Home Support Service (IHSS) self-direction models.

HCPF has determined, in order to ensure operational excellence, it is necessary to slightly delay the implementation of the Nurse Assessor, Skilled Care Acuity Assessment, and Pediatric Long-Term Home Health (LTHH) Prior Authorization Request (PAR) Restart for Registered Nursing (RN), Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN), and Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) services. HCPF has committed to only fully launching a new program when we are confident all systems and operations are ready. At this time, the systems need a bit more time.

The ability to restart PAR requirements for intermittent RN, LPN, and CNA services is dependent on the launch of the Nurse Assessor and SCAA. Due to the delay in the start of the Nurse Assessor, the Department cannot restart PAR requirements for these services until the Nurse Assessor is implemented. Please note, PAR requirements for Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Speech Therapy/Speech Language Pathology (ST/SLP) will start July 1, 2025, as outlined in [Operational Memo (OM) 25-033](#).

Health Maintenance Activities (HMA) new oversight process through the Nurse Assessor will be implemented August 1, 2025.

Action To Be Taken:

<u>Members & Families</u>

You do not need to take any action. For members currently receiving skilled care services, you will continue to receive services. You can continue to work with your Home Health Agency (HMA) and Case Manager for questions or concerns about your

services. To learn more about the Nurse Assessor initiative visit the [Nurse Assessor and Skilled Care Acuity Assessment](#) webpage.

For members who need but are not currently receiving skilled care services, you can initiate services by working with your Home Health Agency (HHA) or your [Health First Colorado Regional Organization](#) will help you.

Home Health Agencies (HHA)

This delay to Nurse Assessor implementation and therefore Pediatric Long-Term Home Health PAR Restart for RN, LPN, and CNA services, means your agency will not be required to submit PARs for RN, LPN, or CNA services for medical necessity reviews until August 1, 2025. This also means that your agency will not be able to refer members to the Nurse Assessor through Telligen's Qualitrac portal until later in July. The Department, in collaboration with Telligen, will provide training beginning in July for HHAs. Training times and additional information will be posted to the [Nurse Assessor and Skilled Care Acuity Assessment](#) webpage.

Case Management Agencies (CMAs)

Health Maintenance Activities (HMA) will continue to be approved through Telligen's current oversight process for consumer directed services. Previous communication stated all HMA review requests would need to be completed and submitted to Telligen by June 13, 2025, by Case Managers. The purpose of this communication is to inform Case Managers that the Nurse Assessor process will not be implemented July 1 and instruct Case Managers to continue all current HMA authorization processes until July 31, 2025. Please visit HCPF's [Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Utilization Review/Utilization Management Training](#) section for information on current HMA approval processes. Case Managers should continue to use the Interim Direct Care Services Calculator to determine HMA tasks for members who receive Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) and In-Home Support Services (IHSS) until the Nurse Assessor process begins. The Interim Direct Care Services Calculator can be found on the [Long-Term Services and Supports Case Management Forms and Tools](#) webpage.

Definition(s):

None

Attachment(s):

None

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