



Are you thinking about applying for a Certificate of Need (CON) to provide Home Health or Private Duty Nursing Services in Tennessee?

Here are several points for your consideration regarding TennCare reimbursement for these services:

1. Federal regulations define a Home Health (HH) agency as an agency which meets requirements for participation in Medicare. This is required in order for the agency to provide Medicaid (as well as Medicare)-reimbursed HH care.
2. TennCare and our Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) require that agencies who deliver Private Duty Nursing (PDN) also be Medicare-certified as HH agencies in order to ensure the quality of these services.
3. The Division of Health Care Facilities (HCF) can only certify a HH agency for participation in Medicare if the agency will in fact provide services covered by Medicare, i.e., HH services. HCF cannot certify a HH agency for participation in Medicare in order to deliver only PDN, which is not a Medicare benefit.
4. Thus, a HH agency with a CON that is restricted only to the provision of PDN will not be qualified to deliver these services under the TennCare program, and cannot be contracted by TennCare's MCOs to deliver this service.
5. An agency that provides nursing services only to children may not be able to attain Medicare certification (due to a lack of sufficient patients who are Medicare eligible). Only in this instance (i.e., the agency provides nursing services only to children), TennCare will consider alternative certifications or accreditations that if attained, demonstrate the agency would meet the requirements for participation in Medicare.
6. Even if a HH agency is certified for Medicare participation (or, in the case of a pediatric HH agency, meets the requirements of paragraph 5 above) and thus, eligible for participation as a TennCare provider of HH or PDN services, it does not obligate the MCO to contract with such provider. MCOs are only obligated to contract with qualified providers as needed to maintain an adequate network.
7. Effective 9/8/2008, HH/PDN benefits for adults age 21 and older are as follows:

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

TennCare will only cover Private Duty Nursing (PDN) for adults age 21 and older who:

1. Are ventilator dependent (for at least 12 hours per day), OR
2. Have a functioning tracheostomy requiring suctioning AND need other specified types of nursing care.¹

¹ Patient must require all of the following: 1) oxygen, 2) nebulizer or cough assist, 3) medication via G-tube, PICC line or central port and 4) TPN or nutrition via G-tube.

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HOME HEALTH for Most Adult TennCare Enrollees

Home Health Aide Care

- Up to 35 hours per week
 - No more than 8 hours/day
 - No more than 2 visits/day
 - HH aide and nurse care combined
 - cannot exceed 35 hours per week

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HOME HEALTH for TennCare Adults Who Need Certain Types of Skilled Services in a Nursing Facility

Home Health Aide Care

- Up to 40 hours per week
 - No more than 8 hours/day
 - No more than 2 visits/day
 - HH aide and HH nurse care
 - combined cannot exceed 40 hours
 - per week

Home Health Nurse Care

- Up to 30 hours per week
 - Each visit must be < 8 hrs
 - No more than 1 visit/day
 - HH nurse and HH aide care
 - combined cannot exceed 40 hours
 - per week

8. In developing your business plan for HH and/or PDN services, talk with TennCare MCOs about their need for additional providers before you plan on TennCare reimbursement for these services.
9. Nursing services are also covered for adults age 21 and older under TennCare through Section 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Programs for persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) operated by DIDD, subject to limits effective February 15, 2011. In the 1915(c) Waivers, an agency may be licensed as a Home Health agency (i.e., Home Care Organization) to provide Professional Support Services, which does not require a CON.