



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Center Memo 2022-11

To: DDS Qualified Providers

Cc: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Scott McWilliams, Chief Fiscal Officer; Nicholas Jerard, Assistant Chief Fiscal Officer; Regional Resource Administrators

Date: October 5, 2021

RE: State Plan Amendment (SPA)- Specialized Services

The intent of this communication is to provide clarification on the state plan amendment (SPA) titled **Specialized Services**.

The Connecticut Specialized Service SPA was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in June of 2019.

The SPA adds coverage and an add-on payment for specified habilitative specialized services (day services, habilitative behavior support and consultation, and service coordination) for **individuals residing in a skilled nursing facility who are 21 year of age or older** and have been found through the Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) process to need such services and meet the criteria for long term care.

Habilitative services are medically necessary services intended to assist the resident in partially or fully attaining, learning, maintaining, or improving developmental age-appropriate skills that were not fully acquired as a result of a congenital, genetic, or early-acquired health condition, and are required to maximize, to the extent practical, the resident's ability to function in his or her environment.

Habilitative services are provided only upon prior approval and recommendation for individuals identified as having a need for specialized add on services related to their intellectual or developmental disability or related condition. This means individuals active with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and currently residing in a nursing home may be eligible for this service.

Specialized Services must be provided by community-based, DDS qualified providers that have been authorized to provide such service and must be consistent with achieving the outcomes identified in an individual's plan of care.

The service can ONLY be delivered in a setting other than the resident's nursing facility.

Transportation between the facility and the service site is included in the service rate.

A copy of the State Plan Amendment is attached to this memo.

To learn more about guidelines for providers that are interested in providing this service, please review the memo linked below and reach out to your regional resource manager.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DDS/Operations_Center/2019/Operation_Center_Memo_2019-21_Specialized_Services_Guidelines_Providers.pdf

Thank you.