

## Kansas 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Programs **COVID-19 Guidance**

**Date: Monday, April 6, 2020**

**Time: 3:00 PM**

### **Specialized Medical Care**

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency period, to encourage social distancing and stop the spread of the pandemic, the agency directs that providers and participants limit participation in congregate settings or activities.

1. For TA and I/DD waivers, the criteria to use a service at a minimum of every 30 days is waived.
2. For TA and I/DD Waivers, Specialized Medical Care will allow payment to a parent/guardian/relative/resident that is an RN or LPN, that lives in the home with the SMC recipient, to be hired by an agency and paid to provide authorized SMC services.
  - a. These services may be delivered in a person's home or a temporary setting, including a family member's home.
3. Waiver services that can be provided via telehealth may be completed using telecommunications (phone), televideo consultations/telemedicine or telehealth services methods that meet the following criteria:
  - a. Comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);
  - b. Such a process must provide interactive audio or video communications, permitting real-time contact between a distant provider, who is present and participating in the visit, and the individual receiving an appointment.
4. Waiver services that require direct contact between a provider, case manager or caregiver should be conducted using methods that promote social distancing throughout the period of the pandemic.

The exception granted through this guidance is good through May 1, 2020, at which time the guidance will be revisited for a potential extension, as necessary.

### **Amy Penrod**

Commissioner

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