



## Alaska Medicaid Policy Guidance Private Duty Nursing

### POLICY:

Effective May 1, 2021 and in accordance with 42 CFR 440.80 and 7 AAC 110.525, Alaska Medicaid will consider reimbursement for private duty nursing (PDN) services who meet the criteria outlined below. Authorized services shall be provided to eligible individuals under 21 years of age with life threatening conditions and for whom without the provision of continuous, skilled care, would otherwise require admission to a general acute care hospital or a long-term care facility. Services are temporary with the goal of training caregivers to provide the necessary services as competently, independently and completely as possible.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA:

Recipients receiving PDN services must require constant supervision, visual assessment, and monitoring of both equipment and patient. Services must be recommended by and provided under the direction of the member's primary care and/or treating physician who has affirmed that the recipient's conditions are unstable and require skilled nursing care. The recipient must be able to meet one of the following criteria:

- The recipient requires an invasive mechanical ventilator with start of use within last 6 months, and parent/family caregivers require education or condition remains unstable needing close monitoring and frequent ventilatory adjustments as the result of an acute event.
- The recipient is actively weaning from a ventilator and requires monitoring and/or interventions to stabilize respiratory condition(s). A stable condition shall be evidenced by the ability to clear secretions from tracheostomy, vital signs that are stable, blood gases that are stable with oxygen greater than 92% and a pulse oximetry greater than 92%.
- The recipient's tracheostomy has recently been removed and monitoring and/or interventions are required to stabilize condition(s). A stable condition shall be evidenced by the ability to clear secretions, not using auxiliary muscles for breathing, vital signs that are stable, blood gases that are stable with oxygen greater than 92% and a pulse oximetry greater than 92%.
- The recipient requires oxygen administration and there is documentation of rapid desaturation without the oxygen as evidenced by one of the following:
  - a drop in pulse oximeter readings below 85% within 15-20 minutes
  - respiratory rate increases

- heart rate increase
- skin color changes
- The recipient requires prolonged intravenous infusions, including Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), medications, and fluids.

The Department will consider combinations of technologies and co-morbidities when making medical determinations for the following medical conditions:

- The recipient requires tube feedings (nasogastric tube, gastric tube, gastric button, & jejunostomy tube), whether intermittent or continuous.
- The recipient requires a tracheostomy but does not require a mechanical ventilator and is not being weaned from a mechanical ventilator.
- The recipient requires oxygen supplementation but does not have documentation of rapid desaturation.
- The recipient requires frequent chest physiotherapy or oral suctioning.
- The recipient requires one of the following skin & wound care management:
  - Burn care
  - Ostomy care, at least once per day
  - Postsurgical care, within 45 days of surgery
  - Wound management, at least once per day
- The recipient requires frequent nursing intervention and/or management of one of the following:
  - Seizures lasting more than 5 minutes
  - Clustered seizures
  - Seizure activity without regaining consciousness

**Scenarios where PDN services are not considered medically necessary**

- Recipient is residing in a nursing facility, hospital, residential care facility, or intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities (ICF/IID) at the time of delivery of PDN services.
- Care solely for the convenience of the family caregiver or to allow the recipient’s family, guardian, or other caregiving responsible parties to work, go to school, or to run errands.
- Care solely to allow respite for family, guardian, or other responsible caregiving parties.
- Care solely to supplement the caregiving responsibility of the family, guardian, or other responsible parties.
- Care after member’s condition is stabilized or provided at a maintenance level.
- Care solely for acting as a companion or sitter.

If you have questions, please contact Tracy Stephens at [Tracy.Stephens@Alaska.gov](mailto:Tracy.Stephens@Alaska.gov).

References:

- [§440.80 Private duty nursing services.](#)
- [7 AAC 110.525](#)