

Memorandum

To: Choices for Care and Hospice Providers
From: Megan Tierney-Ward, Aging and Disabilities Program Manager
Date: June 29, 2011
Re: Dual Enrollment for CFC and Hospice Policy Change

Historically, the policy regarding dual participation in both Choices for Care (CFC) and Hospice programs has been restrictive. The current policy (9/11/06) states “Individuals currently participating on the Choices for Care program who become eligible for, and in need of Home Health Hospice services may do so without prior authorization from the Department.” However, due to specific policy limitations related to duplication of services and Hospice services expectations, individuals already enrolled in Hospice could not apply to CFC and continue dual participation in both programs.

This year the Vermont State Legislature passed legislation requiring the Department to revise its current policy regarding dual participation in CFC and Hospice. Effective July 1, 2011 people enrolled in Hospice that submit a CFC application will be treated no differently than CFC participants who later are admitted to Hospice. People on Hospice will be found eligible for CFC when they meet the CFC clinical criteria, have an identified unmet need and meet the financial eligibility.

This policy change will allow individuals who have already been admitted to Hospice and have an unmet need to apply for CFC and be considered for dual program participation. The goal is to eliminate any possible barriers that may be preventing people from choosing Hospice services and to address any unmet needs that a person may have that can be met with both Hospice and CFC services. Individuals who are on Hospice and applying for CFC will be treated like other CFC applicants.

This policy change is in effect for a one-year trial period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012. At that time, data will be analyzed to review the effectiveness of this policy change. The existing policy dated 9/11/06 is suspended until further notice.

Attached is a revised copy of the notice used by Hospice providers to report when a person is enrolling in both Hospice and CFC. **Please use this form starting July 1, 2011, with a copy to DAIL, the LTCCC and CFC case manager.**

Finally, please be sure that people who are receiving Hospice services and considering applying to CFC are fully informed of the CFC program application process. This includes informing them about the requirement to meet Long-term Care Medicaid financial criteria and estate recovery.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

C: Peter Cobb/VAHHA, Nick McCardle/Bayada, VT Hospice Coordinators, CFC Case Management Supervisors, LTCCC, Jackie Majoros/LTC Ombudsman, Janet Pare/DCF, DVHA