

Children with Chronic Health Conditions (CHC) Program

(800) 482-5850 Extension 22270 or 22277

Guidelines for Professionals

The Children with Chronic Health Conditions (CHC) program supports children and youth with conditions that require support and services beyond those of their typically-developing peers. Eligible conditions include developmental disabilities in addition to chronic health conditions.

ABOUT THE CHC PROGRAM:

CHC provides care coordination services (case management) to support families of children and youth in accessing community-based, family-centered, culturally sensitive services which will assist children with special health care needs to reach their maximum potential. Arkansas' CHC program's goals are:

- To assist families in accessing sufficient health care services
- To assist families with transition from pediatric to adult systems of care.

CHC serves children and youth from birth to age 21, with a long term physical or developmental condition who are Medicaid-eligible (SSI, TEFRA, or ARKids A). Children must be residents of Arkansas. Applicants must meet financial and medical eligibility requirements. Eligibility is determined initially, and then annually by the CHC program administration. The child/family receives notification via letter of eligibility.

The following children are not eligible to receive CHC Services:

- Children who are currently receiving case management services through another program (i.e., children enrolled in a Provider-Led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE))
- Recipients of the 1915(c) Autism Waiver
- Children receiving Hospice Care without concurrent disease modifying treatment
- Children living in a residential care setting, such as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility.

CARE COORDINATION:

Families of children that are CHC-eligible receive assistance from a CHC Registered Nurse (RN) Care Coordinator in coordinating their child's care. CHC RN Care Coordinators have helped families with:

- Finding a medical home
- Finding information about their child's condition
- Finding support in times of stress and crisis
- Obtaining medical equipment related to their child's special needs
- Coordinating payment for their child's special health care needs
- Working with all the professionals on a plan that meets their child's and their family's needs
- Transitioning from the pediatric care system to an adult care system
- Applying for insurance for their child as he/she transitions to adulthood

The family is the center of the team of providers who will be tending to the needs of their child, because they know their child better than anyone else!

CHC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

When funding allows, CHC provides limited direct services to fill an unmet need when no other program, service, or pay source exists in Arkansas to provide these services to families of eligible children. Services for CHC-eligible children are prior authorized by CHC. The CHC program is the "payer of last resort," meaning that CHC funds cannot be used to pay for services covered by other programs or pay sources. If a child would be eligible for Medicaid (SSI, TEFRA, or ARKids A or B) or for insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the family must apply for coverage before they can be eligible for CHC services.

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CHC Program Assistance Categories:

Non-Medicaid Population:

Deductibles and Coinsurance: For CHC-eligible services covered by private insurance, CHC may assist with the deductible or coinsurance amount up to one month of household gross monthly income, as determined by CHC staff during eligibility determination, provided it does not exceed the assistance limit.

Both Medicaid & Non-Medicaid Population:

Please Note: The examples provided below are not an exhaustive list of possible needs that could be met through the CHC Program Assistance categories.

- **Adaptive Equipment:** Any assistive technology device, equipment, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve the performance of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for an eligible child. Adaptive equipment may be purchased off-the-shelf, modified, or custom made. Some examples include: adaptive feeding utensils, wheelchairs, communication devices, portable wheelchair ramps, and sensory items (e.g. weighted blankets).
- **Medical Camps:** Camps specifically designed to meet a child's specific medical and/or developmental needs while providing opportunities for children with medical needs or developmental delays to increase independence and learn from social interactions with peers. Some examples include: Diabetic Camp, Hematology/Oncology Camp, Camp Aldersgate, Asthma Camp, Camp Barnabas, and We Care Foundation Medical Camps.
- **Medically Necessary Item or Equipment:** A medically necessary item or equipment prescribed by a primary care physician (PCP) or other attending medical practitioner. Some examples include: PKU foods, hearing aids, audiology, scoliosis brace, insulin pumps, and diabetic supplies.
- **Parent Education:** Fees and necessary expenses associated with parent/guardian acquiring knowledge of their eligible child's CHC-qualifying disability or delay. Some examples include: condition-specific conference registration fees, travel expense for parent (hotel, airfare, or meals), condition-specific classes or workshops, and educational materials (books, DVDs, etc.).
- **Respite:** Temporary relief that allows the primary caregiver of a child with a disability or special health care needs to have an occasional break from caring for the child. Respite services must be provided by a Medicaid-enrolled provider of respite, supportive living, or personal care services.
- **Vehicle Modification:** Modification in accordance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements that allows the vehicle to be accessible for an eligible child and increase the eligible child's mobility or access to services. Some examples include: wheelchair carrier, lift, or ramp.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

Any CHC applicant/recipient has the right to appeal a CHC decision. To appeal a decision, you must make the request in writing to the CHC Program Director within ten (10) business day from the date of notification.