



Private Duty Nursing Criteria

Policy Number: PA 22
Last Review Date: 02/12/2026
Effective Date: 11/1/2019

Policy

Maryland Care, Inc., dba Maryland Physicians Care (MPC) follows the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for reviewing and authorizing private duty nursing services. All private duty nursing requests will be reviewed by a medical director and all members receiving private duty nursing will be assigned to a case manager. The medical director will make the final determination for approval or adverse determination of services including the number of hours per day.

Services covered for private duty nursing must be medically necessary and meet the following criteria:

- Member must be under the age of 21
- All requests for private duty nursing must have a physician order by the member’s primary physician
- Requests for private duty nursing renewal must be submitted every 60 days including the updated physician evaluation notes and the updated order.
- Services are directly related to the plan of care
- Services are described in the nursing care plan and progress notes
- All services are provided by a licensed nurse
- Services are of a scope that are more individual and continuous than what are available under the home health program
- Services are delivered in the recipient’s home, or other setting when normal life activities take the recipient outside the home
- Services include supervision of family caregivers in the home while family caregivers practice the skills necessary to provide care to the recipient in accordance with the established plan of care
- Services are determined medically necessary after the licensed registered nurse has completed an initial nursing assessment
 - The assessment demonstrates a comprehensive assessment of the member’s health status, the need for private duty nursing, the scope and duration of PDN to be provided, assessment of the member’s residence, is done in consultation with the PCP and a multidisciplinary team as appropriate
- All services include a plan of care which will include, at a minimum
 - Prognosis
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment and treatment goals
 - Services required, including specific nursing procedures



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- Frequency of visits (hours of nursing care ordered for each day)
- Duration of treatment
- Functional limitations
- Permitted and prohibited activities
- Diet
- Medications
- Mental status
- A list of medical supplies related to each nursing procedure and how these are to be used in the participant's care
- A list of durable medical equipment related to each nursing procedure and how the equipment is to be used in the participant's care
- Safety measures to protect against injury
- Emergency plan
- Contingency plan for back-up nursing coverage
- Nurse's role in including the family in the provision of care
- Plan to decrease private duty nursing services when the participant's condition improves or as the family, foster parents, or other caregivers become better able to meet the participant's needs.

Background

MPC Prior Authorization department will authorize medically necessary private duty nursing services for members under the age of 21, as outlined by COMAR regulations.

Service	Description
Private Duty Nursing	Skilled nursing services for recipients who require more individual and continuous care than is available under the home health program, and which are provided by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse, in a recipient's own home or another setting when normal life activities take the recipient outside his or her home.

References

- COMAR 10.09.53.03
- COMAR 10.09.53.04
- COMAR 10.09.53.06
- COMAR 10.09.53.07



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Revision Log

Reviewed and Revised: Updated template	February 2021
Annual Review; no revisions necessary	February 2022
Reviewed and Revised: Removed COMAR reference that does not apply.	February 2023
Annual review; No revisions necessary	February 2024
Annual review; No revisions necessary	February 2025
Annual review; No revisions necessary	February 2026