

TALKING POINTS:

IMPROVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

Investing in Home Health Care Today Saves Missouri Money Tomorrow - Missouri leadership cares deeply about fiscal responsibility—which is why pediatric home health care makes sense. Home care for medically fragile children saves Medicaid money.

Private Duty Nursing Services are nursing services provided in the home for medically complex children that qualify for Medicaid. Many are on ventilators, have tracheotomy or gastric feeding tubes, IVs or require wound care.

The higher cost of serving pediatric patients with complex medical needs must be recognized!

- Current federal Medicaid law requires states to set payment rates at levels that “are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services are available at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area.”
Missouri continues to remain in CRISIS MODE related to access to Private Duty Nursing providers.
- When private duty nursing is not available, the only alternative for these medically complex children is to remain in a hospital. Delayed discharges cost the Medicaid system HUGE dollars!
- As of 2018, (most recently available data) hospital inpatient costs for Missouri are on average \$2,361/day (Kaiser). As of 2020, a 24-hour private duty nursing home care shift would cost \$802.56/day for Healthy Children & Youth and \$751.68 for Medically Fragile Adult Waiver.
- Medically fragile children want to be cared for in the comfort of their own homes, surrounded by the people who care most for them and their safety.
- Home care patients not receiving authorized nursing, experience dangerous unintended consequences: increased hospitalization risk, ER visits and safety risks, and a lower quality of life. Families also suffer—when nursing shifts go unfilled, families are forced to take on the responsibility, which leads to income loss, extreme stress and a lower quality of life.
- Hospitalized children discharged to home care services experienced fewer readmissions and subsequent hospitalizations than similar children not receiving such services.
- The home care PDN nursing shortage is due in large part to wages, and by extension the Medicaid rate, not being competitive with hospitals or nursing homes.
- According to MO HealthNet, only 75% of PDN authorized services are being delivered. **That means 25% (one quarter) of needed services go undelivered because of staffing shortages!!**
- Legislators understood the problem and increased the reimbursement rate in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 but the cut in FY 2018 took private duty nursing providers back to 2014 rates. **Currently providers are working on FY17 rates.**
- **PDN providers are requesting funding of \$5.6 million General Revenue to fund Private Duty Nursing providers by merging and raise the PDN & MFAW rates to \$40.85, which will allow home care providers to compete for 50% of the state’s nurses.**