

1620- H TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM STANDARD

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REVISION

APPROVAL DATES: 10/01/04, 02/01/05, 09/01/05, 09/01/06, 10/01/07, 10/01/11, 04/01/12, 05/01/12, 5/22/25²

I. PURPOSE

This Policy applies to ALTCS/EPD, DES, ~~/DDD~~ (DDD) Contractors and the Tribal ALTCS Programs ~~as delineated within this Policy~~. This Policy establishes ALTCS³ case Management standards for members in the ALTCS Transitional Programs. Where this Policy references ALTCS or Contractor requirements the provisions apply to ALTCS E/PD, DES DDD, and Tribal ALTCS unless otherwise specified.⁴

II. DEFINITIONS

Refer to the AHCCCS Contract and Policy Dictionary for common terms found in this Policy.

ARIZONA LONG TERM CARE SYSTEM (ALTCS) TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

~~A program for currently eligible ALTCS and Tribal ALTCS members who have improved either medically, functionally or both, to the extent that they are no longer at immediate risk of institutionalization at a Nursing Facility (NF) or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) for persons with Intellectual Disabilities level of care. These members continue to require some long term care services, but at a lower level of care. The ALTCS Transitional Program allows those members who meet the lower level of care, as determined by the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS), to continue to receive all ALTCS covered services that are medically necessary.~~

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS)

~~Home and community based services, as defined in A.R.S. §36-2931 and §36-2939.~~

PRE-ADMISSION SCREENING (PAS)

~~A process of determining an individual's risk of institutionalization at a NF or ICF level of care as specified in 9 A.A.C. 28 Article 1.~~⁵

¹ Date Policy is effective.

² Date Policy is approved.

³ Adding ALTCS for specific Case Management oversight adding throughout policy when applicable.

⁴ Added statement to capture all applicabilities for ALTCS, made revisions throughout Policy.

⁵ Removed to align with Contract and Policy formatting standards. Common terms can be found in the AHCCCS Contract and Policy Dictionary.

III. POLICY

The ALTCS Transitional Program is available for members [~~receiving institutional or~~ Home and Community Based Services (HCBS-services)] who, at the time of medical reassessment, have improved either medically, functionally or both to the extent that they no longer need institutional care, but who still need significant Long Term ~~Care Services~~⁶ and Supports (LTSS).

In addition to all other ALTCS ~~and Tribal ALTCS~~ Cease Mmanagement standards, the following standards apply for members in the ALTCS Transitional Program:

1. The ALTCS ~~and Tribal ALTCS~~ Cease Mmanager, upon notification of the change of a member to the ALTCS Transitional Program shall discuss the change in level of care with the member/~~guardian~~Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM)/~~designated~~ representative (DR)⁷ to ensure understanding of the change.
2. The ALTCS ~~and Tribal ALTCS~~ Cease Mmanager shall ensure that a member in an HCBS setting that meets transitional criteria continues to receive all covered HCBS as necessary.
3. While institutional services are no longer considered medically necessary for transitional eligible members, a short-term stay in a Nursing Facility (NF)⁸ or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) is available.
4. The members in the ALTCS Transitional Program whose medical condition temporarily worsens to the extent that the NF services are medically necessary may receive up to 90 consecutive days of care at any one admission.
5. For members already residing in a NF or an ICF who becomes eligible for the ALTCS Transitional Program, the ALTCS eCase mManager shall ensure that the member/~~guardian~~HCDM/~~designated representative~~DR, understands that discharge from the NF or ICF is necessary within 90 consecutive days after the effective date of eligibility for the ALTCS Transitional Program. The ALTCS eCase mManager shall work with the member/~~guardian~~HCDM/~~designated representative~~DR towards HCBS placement as soon as possible, but discharge shall not occur later than 90 consecutive days after the effective date of eligibility for the ALTCS Transitional Program.
6. A Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) reassessment shall be requested, via electronic Member Change Report (MCR), within 45 days of institutional admission, for any members in the ALTCS Transitional Program whose condition has deteriorated and who is expected to need NF or ICF services for greater than 90 consecutive days. Refer to the AHCCCS ALTCS ~~Member Change Report~~ MCR User Guide on the AHCCCS website. A PAS reassessment is not needed if a member in ALTCS ~~or Tribal ALTCS~~ will remain in or return to an HCBS setting within 90 days.

⁶ Revised for alignment with Contract and Policy Dictionary.

⁷ Revised for alignment with current Policy standards; changes made throughout policy.

⁸ Spelled out acronym for first time use; replace with acronym throughout policy when applicable.

The ALTCS ~~and Tribal ALTCS~~ Case Manager shall follow up on the MCR with the local ALTCS ~~or Tribal ALTCS~~ office after the PAS reassessment has been requested if there has been no response by the 60th day following admission. Alternate placement options may be explored in the event that the member continues to meet the ALTCS Transitional Program criteria.

~~Case file documentation shall demonstrate that the ALTCS or Tribal ALTCS case manager has taken appropriate and timely action to either pursue discharge to an HCBS setting or facilitate a PAS reassessment as indicated.~~

7. The ALTCS Case Manager shall document in the case file all appropriate and timely action to either pursue discharge to an HCBS setting or facilitate a PAS reassessment as indicated and within the time frames required in this Policy.⁹

⁹ Removed language and revised for clarity and flow.