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| Policy Title: Private Duty Nursing | | POLICY #: 10.2.51 | |
| | | Line of business: | |
| Department Name: Utilization Management | Original Date 7/31/2022 | Effective Date 10/22 | Revision Date 7/22 |
| Department Head:  | | | Date: 10/22 |
| Medical Services/P&T Committee: (If Applicable)  | | | Date: 10/22 |

PURPOSE

Blue Shield Promise Health plan is obligated to provide Private Duty Nursing (PDN) is the provision of medically necessary, complex skilled nursing care in the home by a RN or LVN. The purpose of PDN is to assess, monitor and provide more individualized and continuous skilled nursing care in the home on an hourly basis; to assist in the transition of care from a more acute setting to home; and to teach competent caregivers the assumption of this care when the condition of the individual is stabilized. The length and duration of PDN services is intermittent and temporary in nature and not intended to be provided on a permanent ongoing basis. Such services are normally billed at an hourly or shift rate. The PDN cannot be a member of the individual's immediate family or anyone living in the home.

POLICY

Private Duty Nursing is limited to home health care programs for infants, children, or adolescents under the age of 21, and offers advantages of supporting the child's growth and development in a family environment without compromising comprehensive health care. For Blue Shield Promise health plan beneficiaries under 21 years of age, PDN services may be medically necessary. Home Health agencies (HHA) offering PDN services, must be Medi-Cal enrolled. If Home Health agencies are not enrolled as Medi-Cal providers, Blue Shield Promise Health Plan network will contact HHA's and assist with navigating the process to enroll as a Medi-Cal provider.

PDN services must be authorized by Blue Shield Promise health plan, unless the PDN services are considered a carve-out, such as California Children's Services (CCS). When PDN is medically necessary, services are provided in a member's home by a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) for a member who requires individual and continuous care. RN's and LVN's providing PDN services to BSCPHP beneficiaries must either be Medi-Cal enrolled as individual providers who offer PDN services independently, or they may offer services through a Medi-Cal enrolled home health agency (HHA). An HHA is a state-licensed public or private organization that provides in-home skilled nursing services.

Pursuant to the early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, Blue Shield Promise Health plan is responsible for providing case management to arrange for all

approved PDN hours. Care management services may be provided either by BSCPHP or the beneficiaries primary care provider practice (IPA) based on contract requirements.

DEFINITIONS

Custodial Care – Any non-medical care that can reasonably and safely be provided by non-licensed caregivers. Involves help with daily activities like bathing and dressing. Reimbursed when member resides in a nursing home setting.

Skilled Care – Medically necessary care that can only be provided by or under the supervision of skilled or licensed medical personnel. Can take place at home or in a skilled nursing facility.

CLINICAL INDICATIONS

Initial, Renewal and Transition of Services for Private Duty Nursing are considered medically necessary when the following intensity of care criteria are demonstrated in the clinical notes:

Service requests for PDN services must be submitted with the following clinical documentation:

1. Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) for requested skilled nursing, number of units, assessment of the scope and duration of the PDN services to be provided.
and
2. Home Health Certification (CMS-485).
and
3. Plan of Care signed by the treating provider (MD or DO).
and
4. Comprehensive assessment of the member's health status including documentation of the skilled need and medication administration record:
 - a) Written monthly progress summary with long and short-term goals and a plan of care to determine if the member has reached recovery, and a caregiver has been taught to assume care;**and**
5. Consultation notes if the member is receiving services from a subspecialist.

CAREGIVER TRAINING

Caregiver Training is authorized when the following criteria are met:

1. Private duty nursing is appropriate for short-term training for the caregiver of an individual with complex medical needs with the intent of having caregivers assume this role when the individual's medical condition becomes stable;
and
2. Member must have one caregiver willing and able to accept responsibility for the member's care when the nurse is not available. If the parent/caregiver cannot or will not accept responsibility for the care, PDN will not be authorized as this is deemed an unsafe environment.

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Blue Shield Promise Health plan is responsible for providing comprehensive case management and coordination of care for medically necessary services, for beneficiaries receiving private duty nursing services. Care management services may be provided either by BSCPHP or the beneficiaries primary care provider practice (IPA) based on contract requirements. Blue Shield Promise Health Plan is responsible to provide case management as necessary, including at the member's request, arranging all PDN services, including beneficiaries receiving carve out services i.e. California Children's Services.

Pursuant to the early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, members under the age of 21 approved to receive PDN services, must be provided case management services by Blue Shield Promise Health plan. State law provides that for individuals under the age of 21, a service is medically necessary or a medical necessity if it meets the standards set forth in 42 USC, §1396d(r)(5).

When an eligible member under the age of 21 is approved for PDN services and requests Blue Shield Promise Health plan provide case management services for those PDN services, Blue Shield Promise Health plan is obligated to provide the member with information about the number of PDN hours the member is approved to receive;

- Contacting enrolled HHAs and enrolled individual nurse providers to seek approved PDN services on behalf of the member;
- Identifying potentially eligible HHAs and individual nurse providers and assisting them with navigating the process of enrolling to become a Medi-Cal provider; and
- Working with enrolled HHAs and enrolled individual nurse providers to jointly provide PDN services to the member.

A member may choose not to use all approved PDN service hours, and Blue Shield Promise Health plan must respect the member's choice, and document those instances when a member chooses not to use approved PDN services.

REFERENCES

1. American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Children with Disabilities. Guidelines for home care on infants, children, and adolescents with chronic disease. *Pediatrics*. 1995; 96(1 Pt 1):161-164.
2. DHCS, Integrated Systems of Care Division, "Private Duty Nursing Frequently Asked Questions". Dated: August 9, 2019
3. DHCS All Plan Letter 19-010 *Requirements for Coverage of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services for Medi-Cal Members Under the Age of 21*, Dated: August 14, 2019.
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2019/APL19-010.pdf>
4. DHCS All Plan Letter 20-012 *Private Duty Nursing Case Management Responsibilities for Medi-Cal Eligible Members Under the Age of 21*, Dated: May 15, 2020.
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2020/APL20-012.pdf>

5. Blue Shield Promise Health plan policy 10.2.4 *“Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment”*. Dated: 3.2022
6. 42 USC, §1396d(r)(5)
[http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:42%20section:1396d%20edition:prelim](http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:42%20section:1396d%20edition:prelim)