

(10/15/09)

Home Care Attendant Services

- Pursuant to the recent passage of Am. Sub. HB 1 (SFY 10-11 budget), RC 5111.88 and 5111.881-5111.8811 permit ODJFS to seek an amendment to the Ohio Home Care and Transitions Carve-Out waivers to add a new consumer-driven home care attendant service (HCAS). HCAS permits unlicensed individuals (nonagency providers) to assist a consumer enrolled on one of those waivers with self-administration of medications and the performance of certain nursing tasks that must otherwise be performed by a licensed health care professional. In addition, the attendant can provide personal care aide services as part of the service.
- Upon authorization by a licensed physician or a registered nurse, a home care attendant can assist a consumer with the self-administration of oral/topical medications (including schedule II through V drugs), subcutaneous injections of routine doses of insulin, programming of a pump to deliver routine doses of insulin, and medications administered via G and J tubes using pre-programmed pumps. It DOES NOT include IV insertion, removal or discontinuation, intramuscular injections, IV medication administration, insertion or initiation of infusion therapies and central line dressing changes.
- The HCAS statute establishes the requirements a home care attendant must meet to provide services, as well as requirements the attendant must follow when providing the service. The consumer can train the attendant in cooperation with the authorizing health care professional.
- The statute is the product of three years' work by the ODJFS Consumer-Directed Care Workgroup. Members include Ohio Home Care Waiver consumers and caregivers, representatives from the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, consumer advocates from independent living centers, home health providers, the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, the Ohio Home Care Organization, the Ohio Nurses' Association and the Ohio Board of Nursing.
- The attendant is required to meet with the consumer and an RN at least every 90 days for the purpose of monitoring the consumer's health and welfare and to answer questions.
- The reimbursement rate for HCAS will be less than what a nurse is currently paid for waiver nursing and PDN, but greater than the rate for personal care aide services also available through the waivers.