



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

September 2008

Dear MI Choice Waiver Agency and Long-Term Care Connection Directors:

Pursuant to MSA policy bulletins 05-21, 06-05, and 07-45, whenever the number of persons receiving and applying for services through the MI Choice Waiver Program exceeds the existing program capacity, potential participants shall be placed on a waiting list. The individual's place on the waiting list is determined by priority category in the order described below. Within each category, individuals are included in chronological order, based on the date of their request for services. This is the only approved method of accessing waiver services when the waiver program is at or above capacity.

In recent years, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has emphasized assuring consumer choice within the state's long-term support system by offering transition services to nursing facility residents who choose to return to a community home. The department has made available special financing arrangements which extend beyond the contractual levels set with the waiver agencies to help expedite the enrollment of participants transitioning from nursing facilities. The result of this practice has been to expand agency capacities while giving rise to a common misperception that transitions are exempt from the waiting list provisions.

It is important to understand that the waiting list process set forth in policy has not changed. Persons on the waiting list are to be enrolled in the following order:

1. Persons no longer eligible for Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) due to age
2. Nursing Facility Transition participants
3. Current Adult Protective Services (APS) clients
4. Others according to chronological order of service request dates

The priority status of the nursing facility transition population, combined with enhanced available funding, serves to accelerate the transitioned participant from the waiting list to MI Choice transition services and enrollment as efficiently as possible. The process of placement on the waiting list should not prove to be a barrier to timely enrollment; however, it is significant in terms of subsequent audit or appeal. Failure to apply the waiting list standards uniformly could bring an agency out of compliance with established program policy.

If you have any questions regarding the proper administration of the MI Choice Waiting List, please call Brian Barrie at (517) 335-5131.

Sincerely,

Paul Reinhart, Director
Medical Services Administration