



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON  
DIRECTOR

May 11, 2020

TO: Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)  
and Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)

FROM: Jeffery L. Wieferich, M.A., LLP *JW*  
Director  
Bureau of Community Mental Health Services

SUBJECT: Children's Home-Based and Outpatient Services During COVID-19  
Pandemic

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the frequency of contact requirements for home-based services outlined in the Medicaid Provider Manual would need to be adjusted and based on the needs of the child, youth and family. The required four-hour minimum standard per month could be reduced during this time based on family driven and youth guided practices. If changes in meeting frequency are made to accommodate the needs or preference of the child, youth and family, the reason for the change would need to be documented in the child and youth's record.

If clinicians can continue to meet requirements and have extra availability due to delivering services via telehealth, then the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration would approve staff serving additional children and families in home based services up to a maximum of 15 if there is not a split caseload. Home-based programs would still need to ensure the capacity for the assignment of new families (infants, toddlers). If there was an interest in having a home-based clinician also provide outpatient therapy, they could be deployed to support other children, youth and families. Transition planning would need to occur because these special approvals would only be in effect until "30 days following the termination of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency Order (2020-04, COVID-19), or on the first of the following month, whichever is later." At that time, all previous requirements as defined in the Medicaid Provider Manual and in approved Michigan Department of Health and Human Services home-based enrollments would remain in effect.

cc: Kim Batsche-McKenzie  
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