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July 28, 2020


MEMO NO.

QI-2025

FFS 20-11

[Addendum to FFS-M15-05]

TO: QUEST Integration Health Plans
Home Health Agencies, Home Care Agencies, Hospice Providers
Community Care Foster Family Home Providers
Expanded Adult Residential Providers

FROM: Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD 
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR QUEST INTEGRATION MEMBERS RECEIVING AT-RISK
AND HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (Addendum to FFS-M15-05)

The Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD) is issuing this memorandum to provide additional guidance regarding provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for individuals receiving At-Risk services and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in the QUEST Integration (QI) program. PPE includes but is not limited to single use disposable gloves, gowns, masks, and face shields.

Standard precautions should be used to prevent the transmission of infectious agents not only to health care workers, but also to QI members and their families.

Single use disposable gloves shall be worn when performing wound care, respiratory care, perineal or incontinence care, and cleaning up blood spills or body fluids, e.g., cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, amniotic fluid, feces, nasal secretions, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, and emesis. Hands should be washed thoroughly before and after providing care. Gloves should not be reused.

The QI health plans are responsible for providing PPE to natural support caregivers, self-directed caregivers, and caregivers servicing members living in a provider-owned and controlled setting such as Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH) and Expanded Adult Residential Care Home (E-ARCH) – where these caregivers are delivering approved plan of care services to members receiving either HCBS or At-Risk services.

The type and amount of PPE to be issued by the health plan to each member's caregiver will be authorized through an assessment of the member's needs. If the amount of PPE used exceeds the authorized amount, the caregiver is responsible to inform the QI health plan of a change in condition requiring additional PPE or for the caregiver to provide additional PPE to include gloves. Requests to health plans for a PPE increase due to a change in member's condition must receive an MD order prior to being included in the plan of care.

In certain circumstances such as a declaration of a Public Health Emergency (PHE) related to an epidemic, pandemic or natural disaster, the health plan may authorize additional amounts of PPE based on need until the public health emergency is concluded. For the current COVID-19 PHE, MQD is directing the health plans to authorize an additional 100 gloves to those members currently receiving 100 gloves per month as a part of their approved plan of care through the PHE period. Post PHE, the amount of authorized gloves will revert to the assessed needs of the member.

Agencies that provide At-Risk and HCBS to QI members in their home to include but not limited to home health agencies, home care agencies, and hospice providers are responsible to provide PPE for their staff to use.

QI health plan staff who enter a member's home are required to use PPE, as indicated, supplied by the QI health plan.

Please contact Jon Fujii via e-mail at jfujii@dhs.hawaii.gov should you have any questions.