

Appendix K Application

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

On March 31, 2020, Nebraska Medicaid submitted an Appendix K application to the federal government as part of our response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

What is an Appendix K?

An Appendix K is a part of a 1915(c) Waiver, which the federal government can grant through Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. 1915(c) Waivers allow states to provide home and community-based services (HCBS) through their Medicaid programs to individuals who need nursing home level of care. This waiver allows states to provide these services in beneficiaries' homes and communities, rather than an institution like a nursing home.

Why did Nebraska choose to submit an Appendix K application?

Nebraska already had a 1915(c) Waiver in place for HCBS. An Appendix K is a tool available to states to alter their 1915(c) Waivers to ensure HCBS are able to continue in the event of an emergency, such as the national emergency declared by the president in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What changes will the Appendix K make to Nebraska Medicaid?

The Appendix K will give more options to providers and recipients of services through both the Aged & Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury Waivers. Some noteworthy changes the Appendix K will bring include:

- Allowing for care to be provided in alternative settings
- Providing for additional respite days for certain recipients of services
- Modifying or waiving Level of Care assessment requirements as appropriate
- Allowing for monthly contacts to occur remotely (phone or other electronic means)
- Limiting non-essential transportation for assisted living residents
- Relaxing criteria for closing cases while the appendix is in effect

How long will the Appendix K last?

This waiver will be in effect until September 6, 2020 or until the public health emergency related to COVID-19 is declared to be over, whichever is sooner.

With questions, please contact us at DHHS.MLTCEXperience@Nebraska.gov.

