Title 42: Public Health
PART 431—STATE ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
Subpart F—Safeguarding Information on Applicants and Beneficiaries

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§431.306 Release of information.

(a) The agency must have criteria specifying the conditions for release and use of information about applicants and beneficiaries.

(b) Access to information concerning applicants or beneficiaries must be restricted to persons or agency representatives who are subject to standards of confidentiality that are comparable to those of the agency.

(c) The agency must not publish names of applicants or beneficiaries.

(d) The agency must obtain permission from a family or individual, whenever possible, before responding to a request for information from an outside source, unless the information is to be used to verify income, eligibility and the amount of medical assistance payment under section 1137 of this Act and §§435.940 through 435.965 of this chapter.

If, because of an emergency situation, time does not permit obtaining consent before release, the agency must notify the family or individual immediately after supplying the information.

(e) The agency's policies must apply to all requests for information from outside sources, including governmental bodies, the courts, or law enforcement officials.

(f) If a court issues a subpoena for a case record or for any agency representative to testify concerning an applicant or beneficiary, the agency must inform the court of the applicable statutory provisions, policies, and regulations restricting disclosure of information.

(g) Before requesting information from, or releasing information to, other agencies to verify income, eligibility and the amount of assistance under §435.940 through §435.965 of this subchapter, the agency must execute data exchange agreements with those agencies, as specified in §435.945(i) of this subchapter.

(h) Before requesting information from, or releasing information to, other agencies to identify legally liable third party resources under §433.138(d) of this chapter, the agency must execute data exchanges agreements, as specified in §433.138(h)(2) of this chapter.

[44 FR 17934, Mar. 29, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 7210, Feb. 28, 1986; 52 FR 5975, Feb. 27, 1987; 77 FR 17203, Mar. 23, 2012]

1200-13-01-.05 TENNCARE CHOICES PROGRAM.

(1) Definitions. See Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(2) Program components. The TennCare CHOICES Program is a managed LTSS program that is administered by the TennCare MCOs under contract with the Bureau. The MCOs are responsible for coordinating all covered physical, behavioral, and LTSS for their Members who qualify for and are enrolled in CHOICES. The program consists of two components:

(a) NF services, as described in this Chapter.

(b) CHOICES HCBS, as described in this Chapter.

(3) Eligibility for CHOICES.

(a) There are three (3) groups in TennCare CHOICES:

1. CHOICES Group 1. Participation in CHOICES Group 1 is limited to TennCare Members of all ages who qualify for and are receiving TennCare-reimbursed NF services. Eligibility for TennCare-reimbursed LTSS is determined by DHS. Medical (or LOC) eligibility is determined by the Bureau as specified in Rule 1200-13-01-.10. Persons in CHOICES Group 1 must be enrolled in TennCare Medicaid or in the CHOICES 1 and 2 Carryover Group and qualify for TennCare reimbursement of LTSS. Persons who qualify in the CHOICES 1 and 2 Carryover Group are enrolled in TennCare Standard.

2. CHOICES Group 2.

(i) Participation in CHOICES Group 2 is limited to TennCare Members who qualify for and are receiving TennCare-reimbursed CHOICES HCBS. To be eligible for CHOICES Group 2, Applicants must meet the following criteria:

(I) Be in one of the defined target populations;

(II) Qualify in one of the specified eligibility categories;

(III) Meet NF LOC; and

(IV) Have needs that can be safely and appropriately met in the community and at a cost that does not exceed their Individual Cost Neutrality Cap as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(ii) Target Populations for CHOICES Group 2. Only persons in one of the target populations below may qualify to enroll in CHOICES Group 2:

(I) Persons age sixty-five (65) and older.

(II) Persons twenty-one (21) years of age and older who have one or more physical disabilities as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(iii) Eligibility Categories Served in CHOICES Group 2. Participation in CHOICES Group 2 is limited to TennCare Members who qualify in one of the following eligibility categories:

(I) SSI eligibles, who are determined eligible for SSI by the Social Security Administration. SSI eligibles are enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(II) The CHOICES 217-Like Group, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02. Financial and categorical eligibility are determined by DHS. Persons who qualify in the CHOICES 217-Like Group in accordance with Rule 1200-13-14-.02 are enrolled in TennCare Standard.

(III) The CHOICES 1 and 2 Carryover Group, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02. Financial and categorical eligibility are determined by DHS. Persons who qualify in the CHOICES 1 and 2 Carryover Group are enrolled in TennCare Standard.

3. CHOICES Group 3, including Interim CHOICES Group 3.

(i) Participation in CHOICES Group 3 is limited to TennCare Enrollees who qualify for and are receiving TennCare-reimbursed CHOICES HCBS. To be eligible for CHOICES Group 3, Enrollees must meet the following criteria:

(I) Be in one of the defined target populations;

(II) Qualify in one of the specified eligibility categories;

(III) Be At Risk for Institutionalization as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02; and

(IV) Have needs that can be safely and appropriately met in the community and at a cost that does not exceed their Expenditure Cap as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(ii) Target Populations for CHOICES Group 3. Only persons in one of the target populations below may qualify to enroll in CHOICES Group 3:

(I) Persons age sixty-five (65) and older.

(II) Persons twenty-one (21) years of age and older who have one or more Physical Disabilities as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02.

(iii) Eligibility Categories served in CHOICES Group 3. Participation in CHOICES Group 3 is limited to TennCare Enrollees who qualify in one of the following eligibility categories:

(I) SSI eligibles, who are determined eligible for SSI by the Social Security Administration. SSI eligibles are enrolled in TennCare Medicaid.

(II) For Interim CHOICES Group 3 only, the CHOICES At-Risk Demonstration Group, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02. Financial and categorical eligibility are determined by the State. Persons who qualify in the CHOICES At-Risk Demonstration Group will be enrolled in TennCare Standard. This eligibility category is only open for enrollment between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2015. Members enrolled in Interim CHOICES Group 3 on June 30, 2015, may continue to qualify in this group after June 30, 2015, so long as they continue to meet NF financial eligibility criteria and the LOC criteria in place at the time of enrollment into Interim CHOICES Group 3, and remain continuously enrolled in the CHOICES At-Risk Demonstration Group, Interim CHOICES Group 3, and TennCare.

(b) Level of Care (LOC). All Enrollees in TennCare CHOICES must meet the applicable LOC criteria, as determined by the Bureau in accordance with Rule 1200-13-01-.10. Physician certification of LOC shall be required only for NF services.

1. Persons shall meet NF LOC in order to enroll in CHOICES Group 1 or CHOICES Group 2.
2. Persons shall be At Risk for Institutionalization, as defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02, in order to enroll in CHOICES Group 3, including Interim CHOICES Group 3.
3. Members enrolled in CHOICES Group 1 on June 30, 2012, may continue to qualify in this group after June 30, 2012, so long as they continue to meet NF financial eligibility, continue to meet the NF LOC criteria in place on June 30, 2012, and remain continuously enrolled in CHOICES Group 1 and in TennCare.
4. Members enrolled in CHOICES Group 1 on June 30, 2012, who wish to begin receiving HCBS and transition to CHOICES Group 2 shall, for purposes of LOC, be permitted to do so, so long as they continue to meet the NF LOC criteria in place on June 30, 2012, and have remained continuously enrolled in CHOICES Group 1 and in TennCare since June 30, 2012. Should such Member subsequently require transition back to CHOICES Group 1, TennCare may grant an exception to the current NF LOC criteria, so long as the person continues to meet the NF LOC criteria in place on June 30, 2012, and has remained continuously enrolled in CHOICES Group 1 and/or Group 2 and in TennCare since June 30, 2012.
5. Members enrolled in CHOICES Group 2 on June 30, 2012, may continue to qualify in this group after June 30, 2012, so long as they continue to meet NF financial eligibility, continue to meet the NF LOC criteria in place on June 30, 2012, and remain continuously enrolled in CHOICES Group 2 and in TennCare.
6. Members enrolled in CHOICES Group 2 on June 30, 2012, who wish to be admitted to a NF and transition to CHOICES Group 1 shall be required to meet the NF LOC criteria in place at the time of enrollment into CHOICES Group 1 unless a determination has been made by TennCare that the Member's needs can no longer be safely met in the community within the Member's Individual Cost Neutrality Cap, in which case, the Member shall meet the NF LOC criteria in place on June 30, 2012, to qualify for enrollment into CHOICES Group 1.

(c) With respect to the PASRR process described in Rule 1200-13-01-.23:

1. Members in CHOICES Group 1 must have been determined through the PASRR process described in Rules 1200-13-01-.10 and 1200-13-01-.23 to be appropriate for NF placement.

2. Members in CHOICES Group 2 or CHOICES Group 3 are not required to complete the PASRR process unless they are admitted to a NF for Short-Term NF Care described in Paragraph (8) of this Rule and defined in Rule 1200-13-01-.02. Completion of the PASRR process is not required for Members of CHOICES Group 2 or CHOICES Group 3 who have elected the Inpatient Respite Care benefit described in Paragraph (8) of this Rule, since the service being provided is not NF services, but rather, Inpatient Respite Care, which is a CHOICES HCBS.

(d) All Members in TennCare CHOICES must be admitted to a NF and require TennCare reimbursement of NF services or be receiving CHOICES HCBS in CHOICES Group 2 or CHOICES Group 3.

(e) All Members in TennCare CHOICES Group 2 must be determined by the MCO to be able to be served safely and appropriately in the community and within their Individual Cost Neutrality Cap, in accordance with this Rule. If a person can be served safely and appropriately in the community and within their Individual Cost Neutrality Cap only through receipt of Companion Care services, the person may not be enrolled into CHOICES Group 2 until a qualified companion has been identified, an adequate back-up plan has been developed, and the companion has completed all required paperwork and training and is ready to begin delivering Companion Care services immediately upon the person's enrollment into CHOICES. Reasons a person cannot be served safely and appropriately in the community may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The home or home environment of the Applicant is unsafe to the extent that it would reasonably be expected that HCBS could not be provided without significant risk of harm or injury to the Applicant or to individuals who provide covered services.

2. The Applicant refuses or fails to sign a Risk Agreement, or the Applicant's decision to receive services in the home or community poses an unacceptable level of risk.

3. The Applicant or his caregiver is unwilling to abide by the POC or Risk Agreement.

(f) All Members in TennCare CHOICES Group 3 must be determined by the MCO to be able to be served safely and appropriately in the community within the array of services and supports available in CHOICES Group 3, including CHOICES HCBS up to the Expenditure Cap of $15,000 (excluding the cost of minor home modifications), non-CHOICES HCBS available through TennCare (e.g., home health), services available through Medicare, private insurance or other funding sources, and unpaid supports provided by family members and other caregivers. Reasons a person cannot be served safely and appropriately in the community may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The home or home environment of the Applicant is unsafe to the extent that it would reasonably be expected that HCBS could not be provided without significant risk of harm or injury to the Applicant or to individuals who provide covered services.