



HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

Susana Martinez, Governor
Brent Earnest, Secretary
Nancy Smith-Leslie, Director

Letter of Direction #2

Date: December 31, 2018
To: Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations
From: Nancy Smith-Leslie, Director, Medical Assistance Division *AMSL*
Subject: Community Intervener I and II
Title: Community Intervener

The purpose of this letter is to inform Centennial Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) pursuant to *NMAC 8.308.9.11 and 8.308.9.12*, the MCOs shall provide a medically necessary service called "Community Intervener" to individuals who are deaf and blind.

The Community Intervener works one-on-one with an individual who has deaf-blindness and who is five-years of age or older to provide critical connections to other people and his or her environment. The Community Intervener opens channels of communication between the member and others, provides access to information, and facilitates the development and maintenance of self-directed independent living. There are two levels for Community Intervener – Community Intervener I and Community Intervener II.

Services for Community Interveners shall be covered by Centennial Care MCOs and the costs associated with the Community Interveners are included in capitation payments from the State to the Centennial Care MCO.

Eligibility for Community Intervener Services.

To be eligible for Community Intervener services, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- five-years and older
- meet federal definition of deaf-blindness

Federal Definition of Deaf-Blindness.

According to 32 CFR 57.3 – Deaf-Blindness mean concomitant hearing and visual impairments, the combination of which causes such severe Communication, developmental, and educational problems that it cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for children with deafness or blindness.

Description of Services

- 1. Community Intervener I:** Provides access to the community by making transportation available (by car, bus, or other conveyance), and serves as a human guide while walking and relays visual and environmental information that may not be heard or seen by the person who is deaf blind. This is done in the person's preferred language and communication mode. This

includes communication facilitation, helps address feelings of isolation experienced by individuals who are deaf blind by providing the supports needed for those individuals to have more meaningful interaction with the environment

2. **Community Intervener II:** In addition to the scope of work described above for Community Intervener I, the Community Intervener II provides advocacy support.

Community Interveners do *not* do the following for individuals who are deaf blind:

- provide personal caregiver support (i.e. cleaning, cooking, etc.)
- run errands
- teach or instruct
- interpret between English (or any other spoken language) and Sign
- fix technology
- make decisions or tell the individual what to do
- provide “transportation only” service

Table 1: Provider Qualifications

<i>Community Intervener's Provider Qualifications</i>				
Community Intervener	Education (typical)	Experience (typical)	Skills (preferred)	Other
Community Intervener I At least 18 years of age meeting the Minimum provider qualifications	Holds a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate	Experience with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, low-vision, blind, deaf-blind or deaf-plus.	Has the ability to communicate effectively with consumer. Basic computer & typing skills	Can travel independently Can pass drug screenings Is not the spouse of the individual to whom the intervener is assigned. Valid New Mexico Driver's License & proof of insurance
Community Intervener II At least 18 years of age meeting the Minimum provider qualifications	Associates degree or 2 years post-secondary education, or, 2 years equivalent experience working with individuals who are deaf blind, deaf-plus, deaf, hard of hearing, deaf blind, blind or low	Experience with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, low-vision, blind, deaf-blind or deaf-plus.	Basic American Sign Language skills, reading materials in uncontracted Braille, or basic skills in other alternate communication modes used by individuals who are deaf, blind or deaf-plus. Basic computer & typing skills	Can travel independently Can pass drug screenings Is not the spouse of the individual to whom the intervener is assigned. Valid New Mexico Driver's License & proof of insurance

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Procedure codes.

904 (miscellaneous physical health) no specialty will bill on the professional claim type using the approved procedure codes to identify the services rendered. A rendering provider is not required on these claims.

Community Intervener I: S5135, Companion Care, per 15 minutes
Community Intervener II: S5135 U2 modifier, Companion Care, per 15 minutes

Hourly Rates for Community Intervener I and II.

Services must be billed in 15-minute increments

Community Intervener I:

- \$6.25 per 15-minute unit
- cost per hour: \$25.00

Community Intervener II:

- \$7.00 per 15-minute unit
- cost per hour: \$28.00

The MCOs shall contact Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD) and any other available providers about possible contracting for this service. MCOs will need to schedule training time with COPD and any other available providers – both to assist specific assigned care coordinators on best practices for working with individuals who have deaf-blindness and also to provide training on billing, authorizations and transportation.