

## Expanded Home Delivered Meals

### Benefit Design

March 20, 2020

For the duration of the period in which Iowa's COVID-19 Emergency Waivers approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are in place, an expanded home delivered meals benefit will be in place. For members who currently receive home delivered meals through a qualifying waiver, program benefits and limitations will remain in place, which include a limitation of 14 meals per week.

**Eligibility.** Medicaid members who become eligible for the expanded home delivered meals under the Emergency Waiver are:

1. Members receiving services through waivers that did not previously allow eligibility (Intellectual Disability, Physical Disability and Brain Injury).
2. Members served by Integrated Health Homes or are eligible for habilitation or day habilitation programs now become eligible for the benefit.
3. Members whose underlying medical condition renders them at risk of inpatient admission for any reason.
4. Members who access case management services through provider, member or family member, guardian, attendant care provider or natural support referral to a Managed Care Organization (MCO) indicating the member is unable to obtain food outside the home and lacks appropriate supports to make food available.
5. Members who are children under age 18 and are residents of a household in which a parent or guardian is eligible.
6. Members who are served by the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) and otherwise meet one of the above criteria.

**Exclusions.** Members who remain ineligible for the expanded home delivered meals service include:

1. Members who are served in a facility setting, including hospitals, nursing facilities, skilled nursing facilities, hospice and group homes.
2. Members who are able to obtain food but are participating in voluntary social distancing pursuant to recommendation or requirement of federal, state or local government.

**Member Sign-Up.** Members may access sign-up through the Medicaid member services line for the MCO in which the member is enrolled. In addition, MCOs may operate Value-Added Benefit programs which operate to expand availability of the benefit, MCOs are directed to make reasonable efforts to communicate availability for those additional benefits to Iowa members.

In order to access the expanded home delivered meals benefit, members may initiate services by:

1. Referral from an existing provider to the member's assigned MCO; or
2. Referral by the member or a family member, guardian, attendant care provider or other natural support to the member's assigned MCO.

Referrals may be made to an assigned community based case manager, the MCO member call center or other designated MCO point of contact as made available by the MCO.

**MCO Eligibility Review.** The member's MCO may assess the member's eligibility for the service and engage in case management related to individual member circumstances. MCOs are permitted to

conduct an individual member eligibility re-determination as frequently as every 14 days but are not required to do so.