



**Louisiana Department of Health
Health Plan Advisory 20-10
April 17, 2020**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Personal Care Services

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is temporarily changing qualifications for providers of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) personal care services (PCS) during the duration of the COVID-19 health emergency.

The following guidelines apply:

- The enrollee's legally responsible relative or caregiver may be a temporary direct service worker (DSW) in the absence of agency DSW care. This includes the enrollee's spouse, curator, tutor, legal guardian, responsible representative, or the person to whom the enrollee has given representative and mandate authority (also known as power of attorney).
- Enrollees and DSWs may live in the same home.
- Payment to the legally responsible relative or caregiver designated as the temporary DSW is allowed, if necessary, during the unavailability of agency direct DSW care.
- Managed care organization (MCO) approval for these services will be required. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If the MCO denies a request, prior to the denial being sent, the request must be sent to LDH for review at Norma.Seguin@la.gov.

If approval is granted:

- PCS agencies will follow hiring procedures that include background checks and training and pay the temporary DSW directly for services rendered.
- At a minimum, training must include abuse and neglect reporting and infection control prior to the temporary DSW providing services.
- A family member who lives with the enrollee and is being temporarily approved to provide services is exempted from background check requirements.

Questions should be directed to Norma Seguin at Norma.Seguin@la.gov.