

Notice of
Rulemaking Hearing
Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration
Bureau of TennCare

There will be a hearing before the Commissioner to consider the promulgation of amendments of rules pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, 71-5-105 and 71-5-109. The hearing will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-5-204 and will take place in the Bureau of TennCare, 1st Floor East Conference Room, 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 at 9:00 a.m. C.S.T. on the 17th day December 2007.

Any individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (to review these filings) should contact the Department of Finance and Administration, Bureau of TennCare, to discuss any auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate such participation. Such initial contact may be made no less than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting date (the date the party intends to review such filings) to allow time for the Bureau of TennCare to determine how it may reasonably provide such aid or service. Initial contact may be made with the Bureau of TennCare's ADA Coordinator by mail at the Bureau of TennCare, 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 or by telephone at (615) 507-6474 or 1-800-342-3145.

For a copy of this notice of rulemaking hearing, contact George Woods at the Bureau of TennCare, 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 or call (615) 507-6446.

Substance of Proposed Rules

Rule 1200-13-14-.01 Definitions is amended by adding a new paragraph (34) and the current paragraph (34) is renumbered as paragraph (35) and subsequent paragraphs renumbered accordingly so as amended the new paragraph (34) shall read as follows:

- (34) Escort shall mean an individual who accompanies an enrollee to receive a medically necessary service. For the purpose of determining whether an individual may qualify as an escort who may be transported without cost to the enrollee as a covered TennCare benefit, the following criteria apply:
 - (a) Any person over the age of twelve (12) selected by the enrollee;
 - (b) Any person under the age of twelve (12) is presumed to be too young to serve as an escort. At the time of request for transportation, this presumption can be overcome by specific facts provided by the enrollee, which would demonstrate to a reasonable person that the proposed escort could in fact be of assistance to the enrollee; and
 - (c) Any person under the age of six (6) is excluded in all cases from the role of escort.

Part 21. of subparagraph (b) of paragraph (1) of rule 1200-13-14-.04 Covered Services is deleted in its entirety and replaced with a new part 21. which shall read as follows:

SERVICE	BENEFIT FOR PERSONS UNDER AGE 21	BENEFIT FOR PERSONS AGE 21 AND OVER
<p>21. Non-Emergency Transportation [defined at 42 CFR §440.170(a)(1) and (3)].</p>	<p>Covered as necessary for enrollees lacking accessible transportation for covered services. Emphasis shall be placed on the utilization of fixed route and/or public transportation where appropriate and available.</p> <p>The travel to access primary care and dental services must meet the requirements of the TennCare demonstration project terms and conditions. The availability of specialty services as related to travel distance should meet the usual and customary standards for the community. However, in the event the MCC is unable to negotiate such an arrangement for an enrollee, transportation must be provided regardless of whether the enrollee has access to transportation.</p> <p>If the enrollee is a minor child, transportation must be provided for the child and an accompanying adult. However, transportation for a minor child shall not be denied pursuant to any policy which poses a blanket restriction due to enrollee's age or lack of parental accompaniment. Any decision to deny transportation of a minor child due to an enrollee's age or lack of parental accompaniment must be made on a case-by-case basis and must be based on the individual facts surrounding the request. As with any denial, all notices and actions must be in accordance with the appeals process.</p> <p>Tennessee recognizes the "mature minor exception" to permission for medical treatment.</p> <p>The provision of transportation to and from covered dental services is the responsibility of the MCO.</p>	<p>Covered as necessary for enrollees lacking accessible transportation for covered services. Emphasis shall be placed on the utilization of fixed route and/or public transportation where appropriate and available.</p> <p>The travel to access primary care and dental services must meet the requirements of the TennCare demonstration project terms and conditions. The availability of specialty services as related to travel distance should meet the usual and customary standards for the community. However, in the event the MCC is unable to negotiate such an arrangement for an enrollee, transportation must be provided regardless of whether the enrollee has access to transportation.</p> <p>For persons dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, non-emergency transportation to access medical services covered by Medicare and delivered by Medicare providers is covered by TennCare within the same access standards as those applicable for enrollees who are eligible for Medicaid only.</p> <p>One escort is allowed per enrollee if the enrollee requires assistance. Assistance is defined for purposes of this rule as help provided to the enrollee that enables the enrollee to receive a medically necessary service. Examples of assistance are: physical assistance such as holding</p>

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Statutory Authority: T.C.A. 4-5-202, 4-5-203, 71-5-105, 71-5-109, Executive Order No. 23.

The notice of rulemaking set out herein was properly filed in the Department of State on the 28th day of October, 2007. (FS 10-99-07; DBID 754)