

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors, and Service Directors

FROM: Mark Kissinger, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Long Term Care

SUBJECT: Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Waiver

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: NHTD Waiver Management Program 518-486-3154

This GIS is to inform Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) that the New York State Department of Health (DOH) is authorized by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement the Medicaid Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) waiver. DOH's contracts with the Regional Resource Development Centers (RRDCs) have recently been approved by the Office of the State Comptroller allowing DOH to proceed with implementation of the waiver.

The waiver will provide community based services to individuals 18 years of age or older who require a nursing home level of care. All financial eligibility and State plan services which require LDSS prior authorization remain the responsibility of the LDSS. The Department and RRDCs will administer other non-financial waiver eligibility requirements. An NHTD implementing Administrative Directive (ADM) will be released shortly to describe the waiver in more detail and provide information to the LDSS about their roles and responsibilities in the administration of this waiver. For example, when determining the financial eligibility of an applicant who is married to a "community spouse," the income of the NHTD waiver spouse may **NOT** be used to bring the community spouse's income up to the minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA). Further details about this policy will be provided in the ADM.

The ADM will also address waiver services of interest to LDSS home care staff. For example, Service Coordinators under the waiver will need to closely collaborate with LDSS home care staff on service plans for individuals who may require a combination of waiver services and personal care or who require oversight and/or supervision and may benefit from the waiver service of Home and Community Support Services in lieu of personal care. Finally, the ADM will address the restriction/exception code that has been created to identify NHTD waiver participants.

In preparation for implementation of the NHTD waiver, the Department will arrange for regional meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be two-fold. First, we will take the opportunity to share with local department staff the policies and procedures that will be used in administering the waiver. Second, inasmuch as the success of the waiver is in great part dependent on the collaboration among local district staff, DOH waiver staff and DOH's contractors, these meetings will be an opportunity to discuss the procedures and protocols being developed for the statewide administration of the waiver. Scheduling of the meetings will begin shortly once initial training of the Regional Resource Development Centers staff is complete.