

1620-H - TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM STANDARD

EFFECTIVE DATES: 02/14/96, 10/01/04, 02/01/05, 09/01/05, 09/01/06, 10/01/07, 10/01/11,
04/01/12, 05/01/12, 03/01/13, 01/01/16, 06/12/18, 08/15/25

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05/01/12, 5/22/25

I. PURPOSE

This Policy applies to ALTCS/EPD, DES DDD (DDD) Contractors and the Tribal ALTCS Programs. This Policy establishes ALTCS Case Management standards for members in the ALTCS Transitional Programs. Where this Policy references ALTCS or Contractor requirements the provisions apply to ALTCS E/PD, DES DDD, and Tribal ALTCS unless otherwise specified.

II. DEFINITIONS

Refer to the [AHCCCS Contract and Policy Dictionary](#) for common terms found in this Policy.

III. POLICY

The ALTCS Transitional Program is available for members [receiving institutional or Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)] who, at the time of medical reassessment, have improved either medically, functionally or both to the extent that they no longer need institutional care, but who still need significant Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS).

In addition to all other ALTCS Case Management standards, the following standards apply for members in the ALTCS Transitional Program:

1. The ALTCS Case Manager, upon notification of the change of a member to the ALTCS Transitional Program shall discuss the change in level of care with the member/Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM)/Designated Representative (DR) to ensure understanding of the change.
2. The ALTCS Case Manager shall ensure that a member in an HCBS setting that meets transitional criteria continues to receive all covered HCBS as necessary.
3. While institutional services are no longer considered medically necessary for transitional eligible members, a short-term stay in a Nursing Facility (NF) or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) is available.
4. The members in the ALTCS Transitional Program whose medical condition temporarily worsens to the extent that the NF services are medically necessary may receive up to 90 consecutive days of care at any one admission.

5. For members already residing in an NF or an ICF who become eligible for the ALTCS Transitional Program, the ALTCS Case Manager shall ensure that the member/HCDM/DR, understands that discharge from the NF or ICF is necessary within 90 consecutive days after the effective date of eligibility for the ALTCS Transitional Program. The ALTCS Case Manager shall work with the member/HCDM/DR towards HCBS placement as soon as possible, but discharge shall not occur later than 90 consecutive days after the effective date of eligibility for the ALTCS Transitional Program.

6. A Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) reassessment shall be requested, via electronic Member Change Report (MCR), within 45 days of institutional admission, for any members in the ALTCS Transitional Program whose condition has deteriorated and who is expected to need NF or ICF services for greater than 90 consecutive days. Refer to the AHCCCS ALTCS MCR User Guide on the AHCCCS website. A PAS reassessment is not needed if a member in ALTCS will remain in or return to an HCBS setting within 90 days.

The ALTCS Case Manager shall follow up on the MCR with the local ALTCS office after the PAS reassessment has been requested if there has been no response by the 60th day following admission. Alternate placement options may be explored in the event that the member continues to meet the ALTCS Transitional Program criteria.

7. The ALTCS Case Manager shall document in the case file all appropriate and timely action to either pursue discharge to an HCBS setting or facilitate a PAS reassessment as indicated and within the time frames required in this Policy.