

1630 - ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS

EFFECTIVE DATES: 10/01/07, 02/01/09, 01/01/11, 05/01/12, 03/01/13, 01/01/16, 10/01/17, 01/08/20, 10/01/21

APPROVAL DATES: 10/01/04, 10/01/07, 02/01/09, 01/01/11, 05/01/12, 03/01/13, 01/01/16, 07/25/17, 10/17/19, 05/20/21

I. PURPOSE

This Policy applies to ALTCS E/PD, DES/DDD (DDD) Contractors; Fee-For-Service (FFS) Program including Tribal ALTCS; and all FFS providers, excluding Federal Emergency Services (FES). (For FES, see AMPM Chapter 1100). This Policy establishes administrative responsibilities related to Case Management (CM) of all members in Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS).

II. DEFINITIONS

Definitions are located on the AHCCCS website at: [AHCCCS Contract and Policy Dictionary](#).

III. POLICY**A. CASE MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS**

Contractors and Tribal ALTCS Programs shall ensure there is a staff of qualified and experienced individuals who are available to provide CM services to members. Individuals hired as case managers shall be one of the following :

1. Be a Social Worker (SW),
2. Be a licensed Registered Nurse (RN), or
3. Be an individual with case management experience serving persons who are elderly and/or persons with physical or developmental disabilities and/or persons determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI):
 - a. For case managers who will serve persons who are elderly and/or persons with physical or developmental disabilities the requirement is two years of case management experience serving these populations,
 - b. For case managers who will serve persons who are elderly and/or persons with physical or developmental disabilities and have been determined to have an SMI, the requirement is:
 - i. One year of case management experience serving persons with physical or developmental disabilities, and

- ii. Two years of case management experience serving persons determined to have an SMI, or
4. Have a degree in Psychology, Special Education, or Counseling, and shall also have at least one year of case management experience as specified in the case management experience definition.

B. CASE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES/TECHNICAL

The Contractor shall maintain CM procedures that are reflective of AHCCCS policies, as defined in Chapter 1600.

Contractors and Tribal ALTCS Program may develop their own standardized forms and tools for recording information regarding members' needs and services. However, all Contractors and Tribal ALTCS Program shall utilize the following standardized forms as specified in Chapter 1600, including, but not limited to the following:

1. AMPM Exhibit 1620-3.
2. AMPM Exhibit 1620-10.
3. AMPM Exhibit 1620-13.
4. AMPM Exhibit 1620-17.

The Contractor and Tribal ALTCS Program or AHCCCS Tribal ALTCS Unit shall establish a mechanism to ensure that Client Assessment Tracking System (CATS) data is entered accurately and within established timeframes, as specified in AMPM Exhibit 1620-1.

C. TRAINING

Case managers shall be provided with sufficient orientation and ongoing training on subjects relevant to the population served by the Contractor and Tribal ALTCS Program. Documentation of training dates and staff attendance as well as copies of materials used shall be maintained.

1. The Contractor and Tribal ALTCS Program shall ensure that there is a structure in place to provide uniform training to all case managers. This plan shall include formal training classes as well as mentoring-type opportunities for newly hired case managers.
2. Newly hired case managers shall be provided orientation and training in a minimum of the following areas:
 - a. An overview of the AHCCCS/ALTCS program,

- b. The role of the case manager in utilizing a person-centered approach to ALTCS CM, including maximizing the role of the member/Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM) and Designated Representative (DR) if applicable in decision-making and service planning,
- c. The principle of most integrated, least restrictive settings for member placement,
- d. Member rights and responsibilities,
- e. The federal regulations for the Security and Privacy of Protected Health Information found at 45 CFR Part 164 (HIPAA) and for the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records found at 42 CFR Part 2,
- f. CM responsibilities, including, but not limited to service planning, reporting service gaps, and Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination (NOA),
- g. CM procedures specific to the Contractor,
- h. The continuum of ALTCS services, including available service delivery options, placement settings and service restrictions/limitations,
- i. The Contractor provider network by location, service type and capacity, including information about community resources for non-ALTCS covered services,
- j. AHCCCS-registered providers, including Indian Health Services (IHS) and Tribally owned and/or operated 638 facilities for Tribal ALTCS case managers, as specified in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA),
- k. Information on local resources for housing, education and employment services/ programs that could help members gain greater self-sufficiency in these areas,
- l. Responsibilities related to monitoring for and process for reporting of quality of care concerns, including, but not limited to, suspected abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation,
- m. Responsibilities related to monitoring for and reporting of fraud, waste, and abuse,
- n. Information on resources related to caregiver stress and burnout,
- o. General medical information, such as symptoms, medications, and treatments for diagnostic categories common to the ALTCS population served by the Contractor or Tribal ALTCS Program,
- p. General social service information, such as family dynamics, care contracting, dealing with difficult people, and risk management,
- q. Behavioral health information, including identification of member's behavioral health needs, covered behavioral health services and how to access those services, and the requirements for initial and quarterly behavioral health consultations,
- r. Case management responsibilities including processes for making referrals for SMI determinations and standards related to the provision of services for members determined to have an SMI,
- s. End of life person centered planning, services and supports including covered services and how to access those services within the Contractor's network,
- t. Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) process,
- u. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) standards for members under the age of 21, and
- v. ALTCS management information system, CATS which maintains member-specific data such as Cost Effectiveness Studies, Placement/Residence codes,

behavioral health codes, review dates and, for Tribal Contractors, service authorizations. The level of orientation to CATS shall be dependent on the level of direct usage by the Contractor case managers.

3. In addition to orientation and training requirements listed above, all case managers shall be provided with regular ongoing training on topics relevant to the population(s) served. The following are examples of topics that could be covered:
 - a. Policy updates and new procedures,
 - b. Refresher training for areas found deficient through the Contractor's and Tribal ALTCS Program internal monitoring process,
 - c. Interviewing skills,
 - d. Assessment/observation skills,
 - e. Cultural competency,
 - f. Member rights,
 - g. Physical/behavioral health conditions,
 - h. Innovations in health care delivery and research,
 - i. Medications – side effects, contraindications, and poly-pharmacy issues, and
 - j. End of life care.
4. Training may also be provided by external sources, for example:
 - a. Consumer advocacy groups,
 - b. Providers (physical or behavioral health), and
 - c. Accredited training agencies.
5. The Contractor shall ensure that a staff person(s) is designated as the expert(s) on housing, education and employment issues, and resources within the Contractor's service area. In general, these individuals shall be available to assist case managers with up-to-date information designed to aid members in making informed decisions about their independent living options.
6. The following only apply to DDD and the E/PD Contractors:
 - a. The staff designated as the housing expert is responsible for identifying housing resources and building relationships with housing providers and public housing authorities for the purposes of developing innovative practices to expand housing options, assisting Case Managers in making appropriate referrals for members in need of housing and tracking referrals and outcomes. The Contractor shall identify members with housing needs and develop a monitoring process to support transition or post-transition activities including, but not limited to, transition wait times, transition barriers, monthly income amounts, housing options chosen, and counties chosen for transition, and
 - b. The staff designated as the employment expert shall be available to assist subcontractors with up to date information designated to aid members in making informed decisions about employment, including but not limited to ADES/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and ARIZONA@WORK. Furthermore, this individual is responsible for educating case managers on how to

incorporate the Arizona Disability Benefits 101 (www.az.db101.org) resource tool into personal goal development planning discussions with members and developing and implementing strategies to educate members on the resource tool. The Contractor shall attend ad hoc technical assistance meetings for the purpose of enhancing program delivery to increase successful employment outcomes for members.

D. CASELOAD MANAGEMENT

Adequate numbers of qualified and trained case managers shall be provided to meet the needs of members, and shall meet the caseload ratios detailed below, except as otherwise specified in this policy.

Contractors and AHCCCS Tribal ALTCS Unit shall have written protocols to ensure newly enrolled ALTCS members are assigned to a case manager immediately upon enrollment.

1. Members Who Are Elderly and/or Have Physical Disabilities (E/PD):

The following formula represents the maximum number of members allowable per E/PD case manager. Each case manager's caseload shall not exceed a weighted value of 96:

- a. For members in an institutional setting, a weighted value of **1.0** is assigned. Case managers may have up to 96 members ($96 \times 1.0 = 96$),
- b. For members in a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) (own home) setting, a weighted value of **2.2** is assigned. Case managers may have up to 43 members ($43 \times 2.2 = 96$ or less),
- c. For members in an Alternative HCBS setting, a weighted value of **1.8** is assigned. Case managers may have up to 53 members ($53 \times 1.8 = 96$ or less),
- d. For members in Acute Care Only (ACO) status, a weighted value of **1.0** is assigned. Case managers may have up to 96 members ($96 \times 1.0 = 96$), and
- e. If a mixed caseload is assigned, there can be no more than a weighted value of 96. The following formula is to be used in determining a case manager's mixed caseload:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\# \text{ of members in an institutional setting} \times 1.0) \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad + \\ & (\# \text{ of members in an HCBS (own home) setting} \times 2.2) \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad + \\ & (\# \text{ of members in an Alternative HCBS setting} \times 1.8) \end{aligned}$$

+

(# of members in Acute Care Only (ACO) status x 1.0)

= 96 or less

2. Members determined to have an SMI

The following formula represents the maximum number of members allowable per E/PD case manager serving members determined to have an SMI. Each case manager’s caseload shall not exceed a weighted value of 96:

- a. For members in an institutional setting determined to have an SMI, a weighted value of **1.4** is assigned. Case managers may have up to **68** members with an SMI determination (68 x 1.4 = 96 or less),
- b. For members in an HCBS (own home) setting determined to have an SMI, a weighted value of **3.0** is assigned. Case managers may have up to **32** members with an SMI determination (32 x 3.0 = 96),
- c. For members in an Alternative HCBS setting determined to have an SMI, a weighted value of **1.9** is assigned. Case managers may have up to **50** members with an SMI determination (50 x 1.9 = 96 or less),
- d. For members in Acute Care Only (ACO) status determined to have an SMI, a weighted value of **1.0** is assigned. Case managers may have up to 96 ACO members with an SMI determination (96 x 1.0 = 96), and
- e. If a mixed caseload is assigned, there can be no more than a weighted value of 96. The following formula is to be used in determining a case manager’s mixed caseload:

(# of members in an institutional setting x 1.0)

+

(# of members determined to have an SMI who are in an institutional setting x 1.4)

+

(# of members in an HCBS (own home) setting x 2.2)

+

(# of members determined to have an SMI who are in an HCBS (own home) setting x 3.0)

+

(# of members in an Alternative HCBS setting x 1.8)

+

(# of members determined to have an SMI who are in an Alternative HCBS setting x 1.9)

+

(# of members in Acute Care Only (ACO) status x 1.0)

+

(# of members determined to have an SMI who are in Acute Care Only (ACO) status x 1.0)

= 96 or less

3. A DDD case manager’s caseload shall not exceed a per District average ratio of 1:39 members, regardless of setting.

Caseload Exceptions – The Contractor shall receive authorization from AHCCCS/Division of Health Care Management prior to implementing caseloads whose values exceed those specified above. Lower caseload sizes may be established at the discretion of the Contractor and do not require authorization.

The Contractor’s annual CM Plan shall describe how caseloads will be determined and monitored.

E. ACCESSIBILITY

Member/HCDM, and DR shall be provided adequate information in order to be able to contact the case manager or Contractor/Tribal ALTCS Program’s office for assistance.

The Contractor shall also provide adequate information to Member/HCDM, and DR for what to do in cases of emergencies and/or after hours.

A system of back-up case managers shall be in place and members who contact an office when their primary case manager is unavailable shall be given the opportunity to be referred to a back-up for assistance.

There shall be a mechanism to ensure Members/HCDM, and DR and providers are called back in a timely manner when messages are left for case managers (not to exceed 48 hours, from the date the message was left).

F. TIME MANAGEMENT

Contractors and Tribal ALTCS Program shall ensure that case managers are not assigned duties unrelated to member-specific CM for more than 10% of their time if they carry a full caseload.

G. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Contractors and Tribal ALTCS Program shall ensure that case managers are not:

1. Related by blood or marriage to a member, or any paid caregiver of a member, on their caseload.
2. Financially responsible for a member on their caseload.
3. Empowered to make financial or health-related decisions on behalf of a member on their caseload.
4. In a position to financially benefit from the provision of services to a member on their caseload.
5. Providers of ALTCS services for any member on their caseload.
6. Individuals who have an interest in, or are employed by, a provider of ALTCS services for any member on their caseload.

Exceptions to the above may be made under limited circumstances with prior approval from AHCCCS. A limited circumstance may include a geographic area where it is unavoidable to have a case manager who may also have a provider interest.

H. SUPERVISION

A supervisor to case manager ratio shall be established that is conducive to a sound support structure for case managers. A process shall be established for reviewing and monitoring supervisor staffing assignments and/or the need for reassignments in order to adhere to the Contractor's and Tribal ALTCS Program defined supervisor to case manager ratio. Supervisors shall have adequate time to train and review the work of newly hired case managers as well as provide support and guidance to established case managers.

A system of internal monitoring of the CM program, to include case file audits and reviews of the consistency of member assessments and service authorizations shall be established and applied, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis.

Results from this monitoring including the development and implementation of continuous improvement strategies to address identified deficiencies shall be documented and made available to AHCCCS upon request.

I. INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

The Contractor shall establish and implement mechanisms to promote coordination and communication across disciplines and departments within their own organization, with particular emphasis on ensuring coordinated approaches with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), as appropriate, Medical Management (MM) and Quality Management (QM). For example, there should be coordination of information between CM, MM, and QM regarding poly-pharmacy issues to ensure measures are taken to effectively address this issue.

The Contractor shall ensure that the Chief Medical Officer is available as a resource to CM and that the CMO is advised of medical management issues as needed. Tribal ALTCS Programs shall utilize the AHCCCS Division of Fee-for-Service Management Medical Director as a resource for medical management issues as needed.

J. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A CM Plan shall be submitted annually to AHCCCS by all Contractors, as specified in Contract. Tribal ALTCS Programs are not required to submit a plan. The CM Plan shall address how the Contractor will implement and monitor the CM and administrative standards specified in AMPM Chapter 1600, including specialized caseloads.

An evaluation of the Contractor's CM Plan from the previous year shall also be included in each CM Plan, highlighting lessons learned, and strategies for improvement.

The Contractor shall submit the CM Plan Checklist with the annual CM Plan. The CM Plan Checklist shall contain page numbers that indicate where the specific requirements can be found in the CM Plan narrative. The Case Management Plan Checklist shall be included in order for the CM Plan to be accepted. Refer to Attachment A.