**Policy Clarification
Medicaid – Long Term Care
PMN-18565-489**

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| **Submitted: 06/17** | **Agency: CAOs**  |
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| **Subject: Transition of COMMCARE Recipients** **Question: Will the implementation of Community HealthChoices (CHC) affect current COMMCARE recipients?** |

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| **Response By:** Division of Health Services | **Date: 06/29/17** |

Yes, with the implementation of CHC on January 1, 2018, the COMMCARE waiver will no longer be available as it will be used as the vehicle for the CHC waiver in a live CHC Zone. Currently, the Independence waiver prohibits enrollment of individuals 60 and over at the time of enrollment. The Office of Long Term Living (OLTL) has been granted a one-time exception to allow recipients to be transitioned from COMMCARE to the Independence waiver if they are 60 years old and over at the time of transition.

The Independence waiver is being amended to include Residential Habilitation and Day Habilitation services, which were available in the COMMCARE waiver. Residential habilitation and structured day habilitation will be added to the Independence waiver effective October 1, 2017 to ensure there is no impact on participant services.

* Beginning in July 2017, COMMCARE recipients outside of the CHC Phase 1 Southwest zone who are under 60 years old as of January 1, 2018, without residential habilitation services, will transition to the Independence waiver.
* Beginning in October 2017, COMMCARE recipients outside of the CHC Phase 1 Southwest zone who are under 60 years old as of January 1, 2018, with residential habilitation services, will transition to the Independence waiver.
* Beginning in November 2017, COMMCARE recipients outside of the CHC Phase 1 Southwest zone who are 60 years old and older will be transitioned to the Independence waiver.
* During transition weekend, which is scheduled for November 18, 2017, COMMCARE recipients residing in the CHC Phase 1 Southwest zone will be transitioned to the CHC waiver effective January 1, 2018.

OLTL will work with the service coordinator to complete the transitions to the Independence waiver. The recipients do not need to do anything. Their service coordinator will inform them of the date of their transition to the Independence waiver and they will receive a notice from the County Assistance Office (CAO) when this transition takes effect.

The CAOs will be forwarded lists of COMMCARE recipients that need to be operationally transitioned to the Independence waiver, based on which zone they are residing in at the time of transition. Once a list of recipients is received, the CAO needs to do the following:

1. Access the case via the Maintenance mode in CP
2. Navigate to the Waiver screen
3. End date the COMMCARE waiver the day prior to the requested effective begin date of the new waiver
4. Click “add new” to prompt a new waiver screen
5. Add the Independence waiver with a begin date of the day after the COMMCARE waiver ends
6. Transmit and run eligibility
7. Send a system generated notice indicating the change in waiver
8. Narrate all actions
9. Scan all documents

Attachments: [COMMCARE Recipient Letter](http://mydhs/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_262877.docx)