Alaska TEFRA Medicaid, Family-Friendly Information

One of the requirements to qualify for TEFRA is that your child must meet one of three level-of-care (LOC) criteria.

The three LOC categories for TEFRA are:

- Intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ICF/IID)
- Nursing facility (skilled/intermediate) (NF)
- Inpatient psychiatric hospital (IPH)

Each of these LOC categories has specific application criteria that must be met for your child to qualify for TEFRA. Your care coordinator will determine which LOC application to submit during the initial interview with you.

As a parent applying for TEFRA Medicaid, your main job is to make sure the application process moves forward by supplying the required documents and working with your care coordinator to track the progress of your child's application. Here is some general information that will help you understand the application process.

There are many agencies and/or people that must work together to process a TEFRA Medicaid application:

1. Division of Public Assistance (**DPA**)
2. Disability Determination Services (**DDS**)
3. Division of Senior and Disability Services (**DSDS**)
4. Comagine Health (**CH**)
5. Care-coordinating agency / care coordinator (**CC**)
6. Parent(s) – you are ultimately responsible to make sure the documentation for your child's application is processed in a timely manner.

1. DPA is the central agency in all TEFRA Medicaid eligibility decisions. When checking for financial eligibility for TEFRA Medicaid, the DPA caseworker does not count the parental income or resources.

The DPA eligibility team member will verify your child's income and resources to make sure they do not exceed the following:

- Income standards: http://dpaweb.hss.state.ak.us/POLICY/PDF/Medicaid-Standards.pdf
- Liquid resources of $2,000 or less

The DPA eligibility team member will also:

- Make a referral to the DDS for a disability determination after you return the required forms.
- Make a referral to Comagine Health for a medical determination.

As a parent, you will be responsible for making sure the initial and annual financial eligibility forms are submitted to the DPA in compliance with the specified timelines.

2. DDS completes "state-only" disability decisions for the DPA using the same federal Social Security regulation that is used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). To be eligible for TEFRA Medicaid, your child must be

determined disabled by the DDS. The forms to complete a DDS decision must be returned to the DPA caseworker.

3. DSDS complete an ICAP assessment (an objective scoring tool used by an assessor during an interview) based on a referral from Comagine Health to determine if a child meets ICF/IID criteria.

4. Comagine Health is a contractor employed by the state to review TEFRA applications for state-defined criteria. When Comagine Health receives a referral from the DPA, we:

- Open a pending TEFRA application for your child.
- Send you an introduction/welcome letter requesting you select a care coordinator from a list we provide and notify us within 30 days of your selection.
- Work with your care coordinator to ensure that the proper documentation is submitted in compliance with the state-regulated timelines.
- Track the progress of all new and renewal applications.

Once Comagine Health receives all application documentation from your care coordinator, we:

- Review your child's application to see if he/she meets the state criteria for the program.
- Notify your care coordinator and the DPA of the decision.

5. Care-coordinating agency / care coordinator will work directly with the DPA, Comagine Health and you to assist in providing all the required documentation in a timely manner.

Once you sign a release of information, the care coordinator can help you:

- Gather appropriate medical documentation for the disability determination.
- Complete the proper documentation to submit to Comagine Health for the medical LOC determination.

As a parent, you will be responsible to maintain contact and work cooperatively with your care coordinator. Your care coordinator is a valuable resource for you in the TEFRA process. They act as the main point of contact for the agencies listed above and have access to the various application forms that need to be submitted.