

to need 37.25 PCA hours. Those hours are converted to a cash allowance that Petitioner uses to pay her daughter for care. The daughter is also paid to take care of Petitioner's husband although his assessment is not at issue here.

PCA services are non-emergency, health related tasks to help individuals with activities of daily living (ADLs) and with household duties essential to the individual's health and comfort, such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation and light housekeeping. The decision regarding the appropriate number of hours is based on the tasks necessary to meet the specific needs of the individual and the hours necessary to complete those tasks. Once PCA services are authorized, a nursing reassessment is now performed every twelve months or more frequently if warranted, to reevaluate the individual's need for continued care. N.J.A.C. 10:60-3.5(a)3. The assessments use the State-approved PCA Nursing Assessment Tool to calculate the hours.

Petitioner's argument for additional hours was based on a letter from her doctor. However, as the ALJ noted, there was no foundation to admit the letter. Rather, Petitioner's case manager at Amerigroup went through the assessment and explained the basis for the hours in each of the areas of ADLs. Petitioner received the maximum number of minutes in certain areas such as toileting bathing and dressing. However, in certain areas, the minutes were adjusted in recognition that Petitioner did not need as much assistance with feeding or dinner preparation was a shared meal with the entire family and she did not need separate preparation. ID at 4. Similarly, Petitioner's groceries and incidentals were purchased at the same time her daughter shopped for herself so no minutes were allotted.

The Initial Decision noted that Petitioner did not dispute the assessment or the findings that Petitioner was able to feed herself some foods or that dinner was a shared

meal with the family. The narration of the case manager about how the minutes were awarded was not challenged by Petitioner.

Based on my review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision. At this time Petitioner appropriately receives 37.25 hours. Should Petitioner's condition change she may request a new reassessment.

THEREFORE, it is on this ^{2th} day of SEPTEMBER 2019,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.



Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services