

of PCA services, Petitioner pays a caregiver to provide needed care. He sought an increase in hours to 120 hours a week and a new assessment was performed.

The new assessment was performed on April 17, 2019 and determined that Petitioner's needs remained unchanged. WellCare did require Petitioner to sign a risk management agreement that he chose to remain home as they determined that they could not safely meet his needs. R-3. Petitioner appealed that determination and the matter was transmitted to OAL.

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 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.

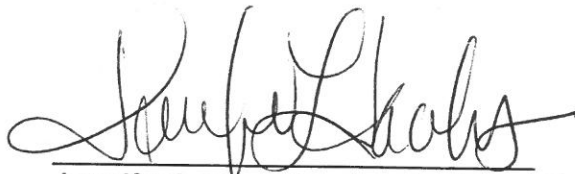
Petitioner's request for additional hours stems from his son's desire to work additional hours and to have a PCA aide present when the son runs errands on the weekend. However, the additional hours sought do not relate to PCA tasks. Rather the additional hours would be used for supervision or companionship which is not an authorized use of the service. See N.J.A.C. 10:60-3.8(c). This would be contrary to the purpose of the PCA program, which is intended to provide medically necessary assistance with specific health related tasks.

Based on my review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision. At this time Petitioner appropriately receives 59 hours of PCA hours and 5 additional hours through the respite program. Should Petitioner's condition change he may request a new reassessment.

THEREFORE, it is on this ^{70th} day of SEPTEMBER 2019,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.



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