



RETTA WARD, CABINET SECRETARY

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR



BRENT EARNEST, CABINET SECRETARY

Dear Mi Via Stakeholders:

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) and Department of Health (DOH) are seeking your feedback on an important issue affecting Mi Via participants.

Related Goods is a covered service in Mi Via. Related Goods are equipment, supplies or fees and memberships, not otherwise provided through Mi Via, the Medicaid state plan, or Medicare. Examples of related goods are electronic devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, fax machines, exercise equipment, and mobile/cell phones. There are specific criteria that need to be met for a Related Good to be approved as a Mi Via service; the criteria are outlined in the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) at 8.314.6.16 (H) 4.

The State is seeking your input regarding the cost of certain Related Goods, specifically, the cost for: **computers and mobile/cell phones, printers, faxes, exercise equipment.** As stated in the Mi Via rules at NMAC 8.314.6.16 H (4)(b):

The cost and type of related good is subject to approval by the TPA. Eligible recipients are not guaranteed the exact type and model of related good that is requested. If the eligible recipient requests a good or service, the consultant TPA and MAD can work with the eligible recipient to find other, including less costly, alternatives.

The State considers the term "less costly" to be a "reasonable cost," or the average cost of the same item or an item with the same features.

The following are examples of Related Goods requests.

Example #1: Request for a Mac computer at \$2,200.00 when other computer brands of similar specifications can be found for under \$1,000.00. The participant explains the need for a computer is to manage the Mi Via program on-line.

Example #2: Request for an iPhone 6 at \$685.00, versus another brand of mobile/cell phone for \$300.00 less. The participant explains the need is to be able to call for emergencies.

The State is proposing the following options and is seeking your feedback:

Option #1: Set a maximum dollar amount allowed for Related Goods as a whole through a capped total. For example: Set the Related Goods available amount at \$3,000.00 per year. This

option is similar to the environmental modification available amount of \$5,000.00 over a 5-year period.

Option #2: Set a maximum percentage of a participant's budget for Related Good.

Option #3: Set a range for Related Goods by item. For example: cell/mobile phones would have an approvable range of \$100.00 - \$350.00. Similar to payment rates, anything above the range would require an exception with justification.

As per the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), "the state can specify the limits (if any) on the amount, frequency, and duration that apply to each specific waiver service, including dollar amount... A state may establish limits on the maximum dollar amount of waiver goods and services that is authorized in a participant's service plan." *CMS Instructions, Technical Guide and Review Criteria January 2015 Appendix X-C-4: Additional Limits on Amount of Waiver Service, page 131.*

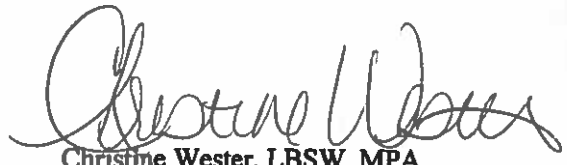
The State fully supports the participant's rights to self-direction and self-determination when choosing waiver services as outlined in 8.314.6 NMAC. The State also sees the need to manage Medicaid funds in a responsible manner. HSD and DOH would like your feedback regarding these options by May 31, 2016.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Christine Wester at 505-841-5510, christine.wester@state.nm.us or Kresta Opperman at 505-827-7776, kresta.opperman@state.nm.us

Sincerely,



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