

# ***Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals & Allowable Uses of Funds***

*Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) #16-02 (Revised 12/05/16)  
Replaces Policy #10-02*

**Scope of Coverage:** Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Parts A, B, C, and D, and Part F where funding supports direct care and treatment services.

## **Purpose of PCN**

This policy clarification notice replaces the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) PCN 10-02: Eligible Individuals & Allowable Uses of Funds for Discretely Defined Categories of Services regarding eligible individuals and the description of allowable service categories for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and program guidance for implementation.

## **Background**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has consolidated, in 2 CFR Part 200, the uniform grants administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for all organization types (state and local governments, non-profit and educational institutions, and hospitals) receiving federal awards. These requirements, known as the "Uniform Guidance," are applicable to recipients and subrecipients of federal funds. The OMB Uniform Guidance has been codified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in [45 CFR Part 75—Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards](#). RWHAP grant and cooperative agreement recipients and subrecipients should be thoroughly familiar with 45 CFR Part 75. Recipients are required to monitor the activities of the subrecipient to ensure the subaward is used for authorized purposes in compliance with applicable statute, regulations, policies and the terms and conditions of the award (see [45 CFR §§ 75.351-352](#)).

[45 CFR Part 75, Subpart E—Cost Principles](#) must be used in determining allowable costs that may be charged to a RWHAP award. Costs must be necessary and reasonable to carry out approved project activities, allocable to the funded project, and allowable under the Cost Principles, or otherwise authorized by the RWHAP statute. The treatment of costs must be consistent with recipient or subrecipient policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally-financed and other non-federally funded activities.

The HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) has developed program policies that incorporate both HHS regulations and program specific requirements set forth in the RWHAP statute. Recipients, planning bodies, and others are advised that independent auditors, auditors from the HHS' Office of the Inspector General, and auditors from the U.S.

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Government Accountability Office may assess and publicly report the extent to which a RWHAP award is being administered in a manner consistent with statute, regulation and program policies, such as these, and compliant with legislative and programmatic policies. Recipients can expect fiscal and programmatic oversight through HRSA monitoring and review of budgets, work plans, and subrecipient agreements. HAB is able to provide technical assistance to recipients and planning bodies, where assistance with compliance is needed.

Recipients are reminded that it is their responsibility to be fully cognizant of limitations on uses of funds as outlined in statute, 45 CFR Part 75, the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), and applicable HAB PCNs. In the case of services being supported in violation of statute, regulation or programmatic policy, the use of RWHAP funds for such costs must be ceased immediately and recipients may be required to return already-spent funds to the Federal Government.

## **Further Guidance on Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds**

The RWHAP statute, codified at title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, stipulates that "funds received...will not be utilized to make payments for any item or service to the extent that payment has been made, or can reasonably be expected to be made..." by another payment source.<sup>1</sup> At the individual client level, this means recipients must assure that funded subrecipients make reasonable efforts to secure non-RWHAP funds whenever possible for services to eligible clients. In support of this intent, it is an appropriate use of RWHAP funds to provide case management (medical or non-medical) or other services that, as a central function, ensure that eligibility for other funding sources is aggressively and consistently pursued (e.g., Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, other local or State-funded HIV/AIDS programs, and/or private sector funding, including private insurance).

In every instance, HAB expects that services supported with RWHAP funds will (1) fall within the legislatively-defined range of services, (2) as appropriate, within Part A, have been identified as a local priority by the HIV Health Services Planning Council/Body, and (3) in the case of allocation decisions made by a Part B State/Territory or by a local or regional consortium, meet documented needs and contribute to the establishment of a continuum of care.

RWHAP funds are intended to support only the HIV-related needs of eligible individuals. Recipients and subrecipients must be able to make an explicit connection between any service supported with RWHAP funds and the intended client's HIV status, or care-giving relationship to a person with HIV.

### **Eligible Individuals:**

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<sup>1</sup> See sections 2605(a)(6), 2617(b)(7)(F), 2664(f)(1), and 2671(i) of the Public Health Service Act.  
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The principal intent of the RWHAP statute is to provide services to people living with HIV, including those whose illness has progressed to the point of clinically defined AIDS. When setting and implementing priorities for the allocation of funds, recipients, Part A Planning Councils, community planning bodies, and Part B funded consortia may optionally define eligibility for certain services more precisely, but they may NOT broaden the definition of who is eligible for services. HAB expects all RWHAP recipients to establish and monitor procedures to ensure that all funded providers verify and document client eligibility.

Affected individuals (people not identified with HIV) may be eligible for RWHAP services in limited situations, but these services for affected individuals must always benefit people living with HIV. Funds awarded under the RWHAP may be used for services to individuals affected with HIV only in the circumstances described below.

- a. The service has as its primary purpose enabling the affected individual to participate in the care of someone with HIV or AIDS. Examples include caregiver training for in-home medical or support service; psychosocial support services, such as caregiver support groups; and/or respite care services that assist affected individuals with the stresses of providing daily care for someone who is living with HIV.
- b. The service directly enables an infected individual to receive needed medical or support services by removing an identified barrier to care. Examples include payment of a RWHAP client's portion of a family health insurance policy premium to ensure continuity of insurance coverage for a low-income HIV-infected family member, or child care for children, while an infected parent secures medical care or support services.
- c. The service promotes family stability for coping with the unique challenges posed by HIV. Examples include psychosocial support services, including mental health services funded by RWHAP Part D only, that focus on equipping affected family members, and caregivers to manage the stress and loss associated with HIV.
- d. Services to non-infected clients that meet these criteria may not continue subsequent to the death of the HIV-infected family member.

#### Unallowable Costs:

RWHAP funds may not be used to make cash payments to intended clients of RWHAP-funded services. This prohibition includes cash incentives and cash intended as payment for RWHAP core medical and support services. Where direct provision of the service is not possible or effective, store gift cards,<sup>2</sup> vouchers,

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<sup>2</sup> Store gift cards that can be redeemed at one merchant or an affiliated group of merchants for specific goods or services that further the goals and objectives of the RWHAP are allowable as incentives for eligible program participants.

coupons, or tickets that can be exchanged for a specific service or commodity (e.g., food or transportation) must be used.

RWHAP recipients are advised to administer voucher and store gift card programs in a manner which assures that vouchers and store gift cards cannot be exchanged for cash or used for anything other than the allowable goods or services, and that systems are in place to account for disbursed vouchers and store gift cards.<sup>3</sup>

Other unallowable costs include:

- Clothing
- Employment and Employment-Readiness Services
- Funeral and Burial Expenses
- Property Taxes

Allowable Costs:

The following service categories are allowable uses of RWHAP funds. The RWHAP recipient, along with respective planning bodies, will make the final decision regarding the specific services to be funded under their grant or cooperative agreement.

### **Service Category Descriptions and Program Guidance**

The following provides both a description of covered service categories and program guidance for RWHAP Part recipient implementation. These service category descriptions apply to the entire RWHAP. However, for some services, the RWHAP Parts (i.e., A, B, C, and D) must determine what is feasible and justifiable with limited resources. There is no expectation that a RWHAP Part would cover all services, but recipients and planning bodies are expected to coordinate service delivery across Parts to ensure that the entire jurisdiction/service area has access to services based on needs assessment.

The following core medical and support service categories are important to assist in the diagnosis of HIV infection, linkage to care for seropositive individuals, retention in care, and the provision of HIV treatment. To be an allowable cost under the RWHAP, all services must relate to HIV diagnosis, care and support, and must adhere to established HIV clinical practice standards consistent with HHS treatment guidelines. In addition, all providers must be appropriately licensed and in compliance with state and local regulations. Recipients are required to work toward the development and adoption of service standards for all RWHAP-funded services.

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<sup>3</sup> General-use prepaid cards are considered “cash equivalent” and are therefore unallowable. Such cards generally bear the logo of a payment network, such as Visa, MasterCard, or American Express, and are accepted by any merchant that accepts those credit or debit cards as payment. Gift cards that are cobranded with the logo of a payment network and the logo of a merchant or affiliated group of merchants are general-use prepaid cards, not store gift cards, and therefore are unallowable.

RWHAP clients must meet income and other eligibility criteria as established by RWHAP Part A, B, C, or D recipients.

## **RWHAP Core Medical Services**

AIDS Drug Assistance Program Treatments

AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance

Early Intervention Services (EIS)

Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance for Low-Income Individuals

Home and Community-Based Health Services

Home Health Care

Hospice

Medical Case Management, including Treatment Adherence Services

Medical Nutrition Therapy

Mental Health Services

Oral Health Care

Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services

Substance Abuse Outpatient Care

## **RWHAP Support Services**

Child Care Services

Emergency Financial Assistance

Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals

Health Education/Risk Reduction

Housing

Legal Services

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Linguistic Services

Medical Transportation

Non-Medical Case Management Services

Other Professional Services

Outreach Services

Permanency Planning

Psychosocial Support Services

Referral for Health Care and Support Services

Rehabilitation Services

Respite Care

Substance Abuse Services (residential)

### **Effective Date**

This PCN is effective for RWHAP Parts A, B, C, D, and F awards issued on or after October 1, 2016. This includes competing continuations, new awards, and non-competing continuations.

### **Summary of Changes**

**August 18, 2016** –Updated *Housing Service* category by removing the prohibition on RWHAP Part C recipients to use RWHAP funds for this service.

**December 12, 2016** – 1) Updated *Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance for Low-Income Individuals* service category by including standalone dental insurance as an allowable cost; 2) Updated *Substance Abuse Services (residential)* service category by removing the prohibition on RWHAP Parts C and D recipients to use RWHAP funds for this service; 3) Updated *Medical Transportation* service category by providing clarification on provider transportation; 4) Updated *AIDS Drug Assistance Program Treatments* service category by adding additional program guidance; and 5) Reorganized the service categories alphabetically and provided hyperlinks in the Appendix.

## Appendix

### *RWHAP Legislation: Core Medical Services*

#### **AIDS Drug Assistance Program Treatments**

##### *Description:*

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a state-administered program authorized under Part B of the RWHAP to provide FDA-approved medications to low-income clients with HIV disease who have no coverage or limited health care coverage. ADAPs may also use program funds to purchase health insurance for eligible clients and for services that enhance access to, adherence to, and monitoring of antiretroviral therapy. RWHAP ADAP recipients must assess and compare the aggregate cost of paying for the health insurance option versus paying for the full cost for medications and other appropriate HIV outpatient/ambulatory health services to ensure that purchasing health insurance is cost effective in the aggregate.

Eligible ADAP clients must be living with HIV and meet income and other eligibility criteria as established by the state.

##### *Program Guidance:*

RWHAP Parts A, C and D recipients may contribute RWHAP funds to the Part B ADAP for the purchase of medication and/or health insurance for ADAP-eligible clients.

See PCN 07-03: [The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Part B \(formerly Title II\), AIDS Drug Assistance Program \(ADAP\) Funds for Access, Adherence, and Monitoring Services](#);

PCN 13-05: [Clarifications Regarding Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Premium and Cost-Sharing Assistance for Private Health Insurance](#); and

PCN 13-06: [Clarifications Regarding Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Premium and Cost-Sharing Assistance for Medicaid](#)

See also AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance and Emergency Financial Assistance

#### **AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance**

##### *Description:*

AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance services fall into two categories, based on RWHAP Part funding.

1. Local Pharmaceutical Assistance Program (LPAP) is operated by a RWHAP Part A or B recipient or subrecipient as a supplemental means of providing medication assistance when an ADAP has a restricted formulary, waiting list and/or restricted financial eligibility criteria.

RWHAP Part A or B recipients using the LPAP service category must establish the following:

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- Uniform benefits for all enrolled clients throughout the service area
  - A recordkeeping system for distributed medications
  - An LPAP advisory board
  - A drug formulary approved by the local advisory committee/board
  - A drug distribution system
  - A client enrollment and eligibility determination process that includes screening for ADAP and LPAP eligibility with rescreening at minimum of every six months
  - Coordination with the state’s RWHAP Part B ADAP
    - A statement of need should specify restrictions of the state ADAP and the need for the LPAP
  - Implementation in accordance with requirements of the 340B Drug Pricing Program and the Prime Vendor Program
2. Community Pharmaceutical Assistance Program is provided by a RWHAP Part C or D recipient for the provision of long-term medication assistance to eligible clients in the absence of any other resources. The medication assistance must be greater than 90 days.

RWHAP Part C or D recipients using this service category must establish the following:

- A financial eligibility criteria and determination process for this specific service category
- A drug formulary consisting of HIV primary care medications not otherwise available to the client
- Implementation in accordance with the requirements of the 340B Drug Pricing Program and the Prime Vendor Program

*Program Guidance:*

For LPAPs: Only RWHAP Part A grant award funds or Part B Base award funds may be used to support an LPAP. ADAP funds may not be used for LPAP support. LPAP funds are not to be used for Emergency Financial Assistance. Emergency Financial Assistance may assist with medications not covered by the LPAP.

For Community Pharmaceutical Assistance: This service category should be used when RWHAP Part C or D funding is expended to routinely refill medications. RWHAP Part C or D recipients should use the Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services or Emergency Financial Assistance service for non-routine, short-term medication assistance.

See [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A and B National Monitoring Standards](#)

See also [LPAP Policy Clarification Memo](#)

See also AIDS Drug Assistance Program Treatments and Emergency Financial Assistance

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## **Early Intervention Services (EIS)**

### *Description:*

The RWHAP legislation defines EIS for Parts A, B, and C. See § 2651(e) of the Public Health Service Act.

### *Program Guidance:*

The elements of EIS often overlap with other service category descriptions; however, EIS is the combination of such services rather than a stand-alone service. RWHAP Part recipients should be aware of programmatic expectations that stipulate the allocation of funds into specific service categories.

- RWHAP Parts A and B EIS services must include the following four components:
  - Targeted HIV testing to help the unaware learn of their HIV status and receive referral to HIV care and treatment services if found to be HIV-infected
    - Recipients must coordinate these testing services with other HIV prevention and testing programs to avoid duplication of efforts
    - HIV testing paid for by EIS cannot supplant testing efforts paid for by other sources
  - Referral services to improve HIV care and treatment services at key points of entry
  - Access and linkage to HIV care and treatment services such as HIV Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case Management, and Substance Abuse Care
  - Outreach Services and Health Education/Risk Reduction related to HIV diagnosis
  
- RWHAP Part C EIS services must include the following four components:
  - Counseling individuals with respect to HIV
  - High risk targeted HIV testing (confirmation and diagnosis of the extent of immune deficiency)
    - Recipients must coordinate these testing services under Part C EIS with other HIV prevention and testing programs to avoid duplication of efforts
    - The HIV testing services supported by Part C EIS funds cannot supplant testing efforts covered by other sources
  - Referral and linkage to care of HIV-infected clients to Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case Management, Substance Abuse Care, and other services as part of a comprehensive care system including a system for tracking and monitoring referrals
  - Other clinical and diagnostic services related to HIV diagnosis

## **Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance for Low-Income Individuals**

### *Description:*

Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance provides financial assistance for eligible clients living with HIV to maintain continuity of health insurance or to receive medical and pharmacy benefits under a health care coverage program. For purposes of this service category, health insurance also includes standalone dental insurance. The service provision consists of the following:

- Paying health insurance premiums to provide comprehensive HIV Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, and pharmacy benefits that provide a full range of HIV medications for eligible clients; and/or
- Paying standalone dental insurance premiums to provide comprehensive oral health care services for eligible clients; and/or
- Paying cost sharing on behalf of the client.

To use RWHAP funds for health insurance premium assistance (not standalone dental insurance assistance), an RWHAP Part recipient must implement a methodology that incorporates the following requirements:

- RWHAP Part recipients must ensure that clients are buying health coverage that, at a minimum, includes at least one drug in each class of core antiretroviral therapeutics from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) treatment guidelines along with appropriate HIV outpatient/ambulatory health services.
- RWHAP Part recipients must assess and compare the aggregate cost of paying for the health insurance option versus paying for the full cost for medications and other appropriate HIV outpatient/ambulatory health services to ensure that purchasing health insurance is cost effective in the aggregate, and allocate funding to Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance only when determined to be cost effective.

To use RWHAP funds for standalone dental insurance premium assistance, an RWHAP Part recipient must implement a methodology that incorporates the following requirement:

- RWHAP Part recipients must assess and compare the aggregate cost of paying for the standalone dental insurance option versus paying for the full cost of HIV oral health care services to ensure that purchasing standalone dental insurance is cost effective in the aggregate, and allocate funding to Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance only when determined to be cost effective.

*Program Guidance:*

Traditionally, RWHAP Parts A and B recipients have supported health insurance premiums and cost sharing assistance. If a RWHAP Part C or Part D recipient has the resources to provide this service, an equitable enrollment policy must be in place and it must be cost-effective.

See:

[PCN 07-05: Program Part B ADAP Funds to Purchase Health Insurance;](#)

[PCN 13-05: Clarifications Regarding Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Premium and Cost-Sharing Assistance for Private Health Insurance;](#)

[PCN 13-06: Clarifications Regarding Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Premium and Cost-Sharing Assistance for Medicaid;](#) and

PCN 14-01: Revised 4/3/2015: [Clarifications Regarding the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and Reconciliation of Premium Tax Credits under the Affordable Care Act](#)

## **Home and Community-Based Health Services**

*Description:*

Home and Community-Based Health Services are provided to a client living with HIV in an integrated setting appropriate to a client's needs, based on a written plan of care established by a medical care team under the direction of a licensed clinical provider. Services include:

- Appropriate mental health, developmental, and rehabilitation services
- Day treatment or other partial hospitalization services
- Durable medical equipment
- Home health aide services and personal care services in the home

*Program Guidance:*

Inpatient hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities are not considered an integrated setting for the purposes of providing home and community-based health services.

## **Home Health Care**

*Description:*

Home Health Care is the provision of services in the home that are appropriate to a client's needs and are performed by licensed professionals. Services must relate to the client's HIV disease and may include:

- Administration of prescribed therapeutics (e.g. intravenous and aerosolized treatment, and parenteral feeding)
- Preventive and specialty care
- Wound care
- Routine diagnostics testing administered in the home

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- Other medical therapies

*Program Guidance:*

The provision of Home Health Care is limited to clients that are homebound. Home settings do not include nursing facilities or inpatient mental health/substance abuse treatment facilities.

### **Hospice Services**

*Description:*

Hospice Services are end-of-life care services provided to clients in the terminal stage of an HIV-related illness. Allowable services are:

- Mental health counseling
- Nursing care
- Palliative therapeutics
- Physician services
- Room and board

*Program Guidance:*

Services may be provided in a home or other residential setting, including a non-acute care section of a hospital that has been designated and staffed to provide hospice services. This service category does not extend to skilled nursing facilities or nursing homes.

To meet the need for hospice services, a physician must certify that a patient is terminally ill and has a defined life expectancy as established by the recipient. Counseling services provided in the context of hospice care must be consistent with the definition of mental health counseling. Palliative therapies must be consistent with those covered under respective state Medicaid programs.

### **Medical Case Management, including Treatment Adherence Services**

*Description:*

Medical Case Management is the provision of a range of client-centered activities focused on improving health outcomes in support of the HIV care continuum. Activities may be prescribed by an interdisciplinary team that includes other specialty care providers. Medical Case Management includes all types of case management encounters (e.g., face-to-face, phone contact, and any other forms of communication). Key activities include:

- Initial assessment of service needs
- Development of a comprehensive, individualized care plan
- Timely and coordinated access to medically appropriate levels of health and support services and continuity of care
- Continuous client monitoring to assess the efficacy of the care plan
- Re-evaluation of the care plan at least every 6 months with adaptations as necessary

- Ongoing assessment of the client's and other key family members' needs and personal support systems
- Treatment adherence counseling to ensure readiness for and adherence to complex HIV treatments
- Client-specific advocacy and/or review of utilization of services

In addition to providing the medically oriented services above, Medical Case Management may also provide benefits counseling by assisting eligible clients in obtaining access to other public and private programs for which they may be eligible (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare Part D, State Pharmacy Assistance Programs, Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Patient Assistance Programs, other state or local health care and supportive services, and insurance plans through the health insurance Marketplaces/Exchanges).

*Program Guidance:*

Medical Case Management services have as their objective improving health care outcomes whereas Non-Medical Case Management Services have as their objective providing guidance and assistance in improving access to needed services.

Visits to ensure readiness for, and adherence to, complex HIV treatments shall be considered Medical Case Management or Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services. Treatment Adherence Services provided during a Medical Case Management visit should be reported in the Medical Case Management service category whereas Treatment Adherence services provided during an Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Service visit should be reported under the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services category.

**Medical Nutrition Therapy**

*Description:*

Medical Nutrition Therapy includes:

- Nutrition assessment and screening
- Dietary/nutritional evaluation
- Food and/or nutritional supplements per medical provider's recommendation
- Nutrition education and/or counseling

These services can be provided in individual and/or group settings and outside of HIV Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services.

*Program Guidance:*

All services performed under this service category must be pursuant to a medical provider's referral and based on a nutritional plan developed by the registered dietitian or other licensed nutrition professional. Services not provided by a registered/licensed dietician should be considered Psychosocial Support Services under the RWHAP.

See Food-Bank/Home Delivered Meals

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## **Mental Health Services**

### *Description:*

Mental Health Services are the provision of outpatient psychological and psychiatric screening, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and counseling services offered to clients living with HIV. Services are based on a treatment plan, conducted in an outpatient group or individual session, and provided by a mental health professional licensed or authorized within the state to render such services. Such professionals typically include psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers.

### *Program Guidance:*

Mental Health Services are allowable only for HIV-infected clients.

See Psychosocial Support Services

## **Oral Health Care**

### *Description:*

Oral Health Care services provide outpatient diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic services by dental health care professionals, including general dental practitioners, dental specialists, dental hygienists, and licensed dental assistants.

### *Program Guidance:*

None at this time.

## **Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services**

### *Description:*

Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services are diagnostic and therapeutic services provided directly to a client by a licensed healthcare provider in an outpatient medical setting. Outpatient medical settings include clinics, medical offices, and mobile vans where clients do not stay overnight. Emergency room or urgent care services are not considered outpatient settings. Allowable activities include:

- Medical history taking
- Physical examination
- Diagnostic testing, including laboratory testing
- Treatment and management of physical and behavioral health conditions
- Behavioral risk assessment, subsequent counseling, and referral
- Preventive care and screening
- Pediatric developmental assessment
- Prescription, and management of medication therapy
- Treatment adherence
- Education and counseling on health and prevention issues
- Referral to and provision of specialty care related to HIV diagnosis

### *Program Guidance:*

Treatment Adherence services provided during an Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Service visit should be reported under the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services

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category whereas Treatment Adherence services provided during a Medical Case Management visit should be reported in the Medical Case Management service category.

See [Policy Notice 13-04: Clarifications Regarding Clients Eligibility for Private Health Insurance and Coverage of Services by Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#)

See Early Intervention Services

### **Substance Abuse Outpatient Care**

*Description:*

Substance Abuse Outpatient Care is the provision of outpatient services for the treatment of drug or alcohol use disorders. Services include:

- Screening
- Assessment
- Diagnosis, and/or
- Treatment of substance use disorder, including:
  - Pretreatment/recovery readiness programs
  - Harm reduction
  - Behavioral health counseling associated with substance use disorder
  - Outpatient drug-free treatment and counseling
  - Medication assisted therapy
  - Neuro-psychiatric pharmaceuticals
  - Relapse prevention

*Program Guidance:*

Acupuncture therapy may be allowable under this service category only when, as part of a substance use disorder treatment program funded under the RWHAP, it is included in a documented plan.

Syringe access services are allowable, to the extent that they comport with current appropriations law and applicable HHS guidance, including HRSA- or HAB-specific guidance.

See Substance Abuse Services (residential)

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### **Child Care Services**

*Description:*

The RWHAP supports intermittent child care services for the children living in the household of HIV-infected clients for the purpose of enabling clients to attend medical visits, related appointments, and/or RWHAP-related meetings, groups, or training sessions.

Allowable use of funds include:

- A licensed or registered child care provider to deliver intermittent care

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- Informal child care provided by a neighbor, family member, or other person (with the understanding that existing federal restrictions prohibit giving cash to clients or primary caregivers to pay for these services)

*Program Guidance:*

The use of funds under this service category should be limited and carefully monitored. Direct cash payments to clients are not permitted.

Such arrangements may also raise liability issues for the funding source which should be carefully weighed in the decision process.

### **Emergency Financial Assistance**

*Description:*

Emergency Financial Assistance provides limited one-time or short-term payments to assist the RWHAP client with an emergent need for paying for essential utilities, housing, food (including groceries, and food vouchers), transportation, and medication. Emergency financial assistance can occur as a direct payment to an agency or through a voucher program.

*Program Guidance:*

Direct cash payments to clients are not permitted.

It is expected that all other sources of funding in the community for emergency financial assistance will be effectively used and that any allocation of RWHAP funds for these purposes will be as the payer of last resort, and for limited amounts, uses, and periods of time. Continuous provision of an allowable service to a client should not be funded through emergency financial assistance.

See AIDS Drug Assistance Program Treatments, AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance, and other corresponding categories

### **Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals**

*Description:*

Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals refers to the provision of actual food items, hot meals, or a voucher program to purchase food. This also includes the provision of essential non-food items that are limited to the following:

- Personal hygiene products
- Household cleaning supplies
- Water filtration/purification systems in communities where issues of water safety exist

*Program Guidance:*

Unallowable costs include household appliances, pet foods, and other non-essential products.



See Medical Nutrition Therapy. Nutritional services and nutritional supplements provided by a registered dietitian are considered a core medical service under the RWHAP.

## **Health Education/Risk Reduction**

### *Description:*

Health Education/Risk Reduction is the provision of education to clients living with HIV about HIV transmission and how to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. It includes sharing information about medical and psychosocial support services and counseling with clients to improve their health status. Topics covered may include:

- Education on risk reduction strategies to reduce transmission such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for clients' partners and treatment as prevention
- Education on health care coverage options (e.g., qualified health plans through the Marketplace, Medicaid coverage, Medicare coverage)
- Health literacy
- Treatment adherence education

### *Program Guidance:*

Health Education/Risk Reduction services cannot be delivered anonymously.

See Early Intervention Services

## **Housing**

### *Description:*

Housing services provide transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance to enable a client or family to gain or maintain outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment. Housing services include housing referral services and transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance.

Transitional, short-term, or emergency housing provides temporary assistance necessary to prevent homelessness and to gain or maintain access to medical care. Housing services must also include the development of an individualized housing plan, updated annually, to guide the client's linkage to permanent housing. Housing services also can include housing referral services: assessment, search, placement, and advocacy services; as well as fees associated with these services.

Eligible housing can include either housing that:

- Provides some type of core medical or support services (such as residential substance use disorder services or mental health services, residential foster care, or assisted living residential services); or
- Does not provide direct core medical or support services, but is essential for a client or family to gain or maintain access to and compliance with HIV-related outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment. The necessity of housing services for the purposes of medical care must be documented.

### *Program Guidance:*

RWHAP recipients and subrecipients must have mechanisms in place to allow newly identified clients access to housing services. RWHAP recipients and subrecipients must assess every client's housing needs at least annually to determine the need for new or additional services. In addition, RWHAP recipients and subrecipients must develop an individualized housing plan for each client receiving housing services and update it annually. RWHAP recipients and subrecipients must provide HAB with a copy of the individualized written housing plan upon request.

RWHAP Part A, B, C, and D recipients, subrecipients, and local decision making planning bodies are strongly encouraged to institute duration limits to housing services. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines transitional housing as up to 24 months and HRSA/HAB recommends that recipients and subrecipients consider using HUD's definition as their standard.

Housing services cannot be in the form of direct cash payments to clients and cannot be used for mortgage payments.<sup>4</sup>

Housing services, as described here, replaces the guidance provided in PCN 11-01.

### **Legal Services**

See Other Professional Services

### **Linguistic Services**

#### *Description:*

Linguistic Services provide interpretation and translation services, both oral and written, to eligible clients. These services must be provided by qualified linguistic services providers as a component of HIV service delivery between the healthcare provider and the client. These services are to be provided when such services are necessary to facilitate communication between the provider and client and/or support delivery of RWHAP-eligible services.

#### *Program Guidance:*

Services provided must comply with the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS).

### **Medical Transportation**

#### *Description:*

Medical Transportation is the provision of nonemergency transportation services that enables an eligible client to access or be retained in core medical and support services.

#### *Program Guidance:*

Medical transportation may be provided through:

- Contracts with providers of transportation services

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<sup>4</sup>See sections 2604(i), 2612(f), 2651(b), and 2671(a) of the Public Health Service Act.

- Mileage reimbursement (through a non-cash system) that enables clients to travel to needed medical or other support services, but should not in any case exceed the established rates for federal Programs (Federal Joint Travel Regulations provide further guidance on this subject)
- Purchase or lease of organizational vehicles for client transportation programs, provided the recipient receives prior approval for the purchase of a vehicle
- Organization and use of volunteer drivers (through programs with insurance and other liability issues specifically addressed)
- Voucher or token systems

Costs for transportation for medical providers to provide care should be categorized under the service category for the service being provided.

Unallowable costs include:

- Direct cash payments or cash reimbursements to clients
- Direct maintenance expenses (tires, repairs, etc.) of a privately-owned vehicle
- Any other costs associated with a privately-owned vehicle such as lease, loan payments, insurance, license, or registration fees

### **Non-Medical Case Management Services**

*Description:*

Non-Medical Case Management Services (NMCM) provide guidance and assistance in accessing medical, social, community, legal, financial, and other needed services. Non-Medical Case management services may also include assisting eligible clients to obtain access to other public and private programs for which they may be eligible, such as Medicaid, Medicare Part D, State Pharmacy Assistance Programs, Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Patient Assistance Programs, other state or local health care and supportive services, or health insurance Marketplace plans. This service category includes several methods of communication including face-to-face, phone contact, and any other forms of communication deemed appropriate by the RWHAP Part recipient. Key activities include:

- Initial assessment of service needs
- Development of a comprehensive, individualized care plan
- Continuous client monitoring to assess the efficacy of the care plan
- Re-evaluation of the care plan at least every 6 months with adaptations as necessary
- Ongoing assessment of the client's and other key family members' needs and personal support systems

*Program Guidance:*

Non-Medical Case Management Services have as their objective providing guidance and assistance in improving access to needed services whereas Medical Case Management services have as their objective improving health care outcomes.

## **Other Professional Services**

### *Description:*

Other Professional Services allow for the provision of professional and consultant services rendered by members of particular professions licensed and/or qualified to offer such services by local governing authorities. Such services may include:

- Legal services provided to and/or on behalf of the individual living with HIV and involving legal matters related to or arising from their HIV disease, including:
  - Assistance with public benefits such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
  - Interventions necessary to ensure access to eligible benefits, including discrimination or breach of confidentiality litigation as it relates to services eligible for funding under the RWHAP
  - Preparation of:
    - Healthcare power of attorney
    - Durable powers of attorney
    - Living wills
- Permanency planning to help clients/families make decisions about the placement and care of minor children after their parents/caregivers are deceased or are no longer able to care for them, including:
  - Social service counseling or legal counsel regarding the drafting of wills or delegating powers of attorney
  - Preparation for custody options for legal dependents including standby guardianship, joint custody, or adoption
- Income tax preparation services to assist clients in filing Federal tax returns that are required by the Affordable Care Act for all individuals receiving premium tax credits

### *Program Guidance:*

Legal services exclude criminal defense and class-action suits unless related to access to services eligible for funding under the RWHAP.

See [45 CFR § 75.459](#)

## **Outreach Services**

### *Description:*

Outreach Services include the provision of the following three activities:

- Identification of people who do not know their HIV status and linkage into Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services

- Provision of additional information and education on health care coverage options
- Reengagement of people who know their status into Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services

*Program Guidance:*

Outreach programs must be:

- Conducted at times and in places where there is a high probability that individuals with HIV infection and/or exhibiting high-risk behavior
- Designed to provide quantified program reporting of activities and outcomes to accommodate local evaluation of effectiveness
- Planned and delivered in coordination with local and state HIV prevention outreach programs to avoid duplication of effort
- Targeted to populations known, through local epidemiologic data or review of service utilization data or strategic planning processes, to be at disproportionate risk for HIV infection

Funds may not be used to pay for HIV counseling or testing under this service category.

See [Policy Notice 12-01: The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Outreach Services](#). Outreach services cannot be delivered anonymously as personally identifiable information is needed from clients for program reporting.

See Early Intervention Services

**Permanency Planning**

See Other Professional Services

**Psychosocial Support Services**

*Description:*

Psychosocial Support Services provide group or individual support and counseling services to assist eligible people living with HIV to address behavioral and physical health concerns. These services may include:

- Bereavement counseling
- Caregiver/respite support (RWHAP Part D)
- Child abuse and neglect counseling
- HIV support groups
- Nutrition counseling provided by a non-registered dietitian (see Medical Nutrition Therapy Services)
- Pastoral care/counseling services

*Program Guidance:*

Funds under this service category may not be used to provide nutritional supplements (See Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals).

RWHAP-funded pastoral counseling must be available to all eligible clients regardless of their religious denominational affiliation.

Funds may not be used for social/recreational activities or to pay for a client's gym membership.

For RWHAP Part D recipients, outpatient mental health services provided to affected clients (people not identified with HIV) should be reported as Psychosocial Support Services; this is generally only a permissible expense under RWHAP Part D.

See Respite Care Services

### **Rehabilitation Services**

#### *Description:*

Rehabilitation Services are provided by a licensed or authorized professional in accordance with an individualized plan of care intended to improve or maintain a client's quality of life and optimal capacity for self-care.

#### *Program Guidance:*

Examples of allowable services under this category are physical and occupational therapy.

### **Referral for Health Care and Support Services**

#### *Description:*

Referral for Health Care and Support Services directs a client to needed core medical or support services in person or through telephone, written, or other type of communication. This service may include referrals to assist eligible clients to obtain access to other public and private programs for which they may be eligible (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare Part D, State Pharmacy Assistance Programs, Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Patient Assistance Programs, and other state or local health care and supportive services, or health insurance Marketplace plans).

#### *Program Guidance:*

Referrals for Health Care and Support Services provided by outpatient/ambulatory health care providers should be reported under the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services category.

Referrals for health care and support services provided by case managers (medical and non-medical) should be reported in the appropriate case management service category (i.e., Medical Case Management or Non-Medical Case Management).

### **Respite Care**

#### *Description:*

Respite Care is the provision of periodic respite care in community or home-based settings that includes non-medical assistance designed to provide care for an HIV-infected client to relieve the primary caregiver responsible for the day-to-day care of an adult or minor living with HIV.

*Program Guidance:*

Recreational and social activities are allowable program activities as part of a respite care service provided in a licensed or certified provider setting including drop-in centers within HIV Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services or satellite facilities.

Funds may not be used for off premise social/recreational activities or to pay for a client's gym membership.

Funds may be used to support informal, home-based Respite Care, but liability issues should be included in the consideration of this expenditure. Direct cash payments to clients are not permitted.

See Psychosocial Support Services

**Substance Abuse Services (residential)**

*Description:*

Substance Abuse Services (residential) is the provision of services for the treatment of drug or alcohol use disorders in a residential setting to include screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of substance use disorder. This service includes:

- Pretreatment/recovery readiness programs
- Harm reduction
- Behavioral health counseling associated with substance use disorder
- Medication assisted therapy
- Neuro-psychiatric pharmaceuticals
- Relapse prevention
- Detoxification, if offered in a separate licensed residential setting (including a separately-licensed detoxification facility within the walls of an inpatient medical or psychiatric hospital)

*Program Guidance:*

Substance Abuse Services (residential) is permitted only when the client has received a written referral from the clinical provider as part of a substance use disorder treatment program funded under the RWHAP.

Acupuncture therapy may be allowable funded under this service category only when it is included in a documented plan as part of a substance use disorder treatment program funded under the RWHAP.

RWHAP funds may not be used for inpatient detoxification in a hospital setting, unless the detoxification facility has a separate license.