



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

Equitable Treatment for People with High Clinical Needs

In NJ an individual's tier is tied to service needs and resource planning and thus, is central to their life in the community. If the individual has high clinical support needs based on medical and/or behavioral concerns, an acuity differential is added to the tier¹ in which case, the provider must ensure clinical staff are available to provide needed assistance.

À la Carte Community Based Support (CBS)²

Though acuity differentials are standardized in the rate list for Individual Supports, Day Habilitation and Respite, they are not included in Prevocational Training (PV), Supportive Employment (SE), and Community Inclusion (CI).³ Based on the example of SE in the CBS sections of the DDD policies and procedures manuals for 2013, a person with an acuity differential may apply for CBS to provide them with the high clinical supports they would need to participate in SE. By extension, we assume that this benefit is also available to those with acuity who are interested in CI or PV. Surprisingly, many ABCD day providers were unaware of this option. Within the DDD policies and procedures manuals' sections on CI, PV, SE and rates, the inclusion of an explanation regarding the use of the CBS benefit should be considered.

In the event CBS is approved as a service to enable a person with high clinical support needs to participate in CI, PV and/or SE, unless it is on an as-needed basis, their budget will be quickly tapped. For example, comparing the total rate for a person with a C tier/acuity for 30 hours/week in CI is \$ 2273, PV is \$2350, or SE is \$2445,⁴ versus that for Day Habilitation which is \$888, a difference of 250%

¹ Supports Manual p 19

² Community Based Support is one to one direct support and assistance to participants.

³ Acuity differentials for Community Inclusion were initially under consideration during the rate setting process.

⁴ CI for C is \$632/30 hour week + acuity factor of (\$13.68 x 4 fifteen-minute increments) x 30 hours) \$1641/30-hour week = \$2273/30-week for Ca

PV for C is \$719/30-hour week + acuity factor of \$1640/30-hour week = \$2350 for Ca

SE for C is \$804/30-hour week + acuity factor of \$1640/30-hour week = \$2445

Advancing the Design

The NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) set a noteworthy standard by stipulating that the standard fee schedule must be complex enough to address the needs of all individuals.⁵ To this end, for CI, PV, and SE service domains, in addition to the à la carte option which may be suitable for some, standardized acuity differentials that are not cost prohibitive and fairly priced must be made available to enable all people regardless of clinical need the opportunity to enhance their quality of life and enforce their rights as citizens.

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⁵ Standard Fee Rate Setting FAQ 2013