



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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HIV/AIDS Waiver Program offers option for seriously ill patients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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When given the choice, most individuals with HIV/AIDS who are seriously ill prefer being cared for in their home instead of in an institution. A growing program, HIV/AIDS Waiver helps these individuals remain safely at their residence rather than going to a nursing facility.

Case managers assist applicants and clients in gaining access to appropriate, needed and desired services by locating, coordinating and monitoring necessary services for the patient. Often home care is the best alternative.

“Patients feel they have more control and independence when they can receive care at home, and we encourage individuals who meet medical and financial criteria to consider the HIV/AIDS Waiver Program,” said Sharon Ives, HIV/AIDS Waiver case management consultant with the health department’s Bureau of Home and Community Services. “Patient privacy is respected and strict confidentiality is maintained.”

Services offered include personal care, skilled nursing services, companion services, skilled respite care, unskilled respite care, homemaker services and case management. To qualify the individual’s physician must certify and it must be established that without home and community-based services, the applicant would be at risk of nursing home placement.

“We look at the individual’s overall needs and tie them in with their plan of care,” explained Ms. Ives. “Social isolation is common for people with HIV/AIDS and these patients have a high rate of depression. The waiver program improves their quality of life by offering the services available at nursing homes in a home environment. An added benefit is that opportunistic infections can be prevented by staying at home.”

An HIV/AIDS waiver patient’s income cannot be greater than 300 percent of the Supplemental Security Income federal benefit rate to be enrolled in the program. Medical eligibility criteria are based on current admission criteria for nursing facility care. Applicants must be age 21 or older and be willing to receive waiver services at least monthly and be maintained in a healthy and safe environment.

The Alabama Department of Public Health ensures that the program is operated according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and Alabama Medicaid standards. Medicaid is the administering agency.

For more information about the HIV/AIDS Waiver, contact the Bureau of Home and Community Services, telephone (334) 206-5341, or toll free at 1-800-225-9770.

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