

# Medically Complex Children Waiver Children's Attendant Care



## What is children's attendant care?

Children's attendant care (CAC) is a home-based service model for Medically Complex Children (MCC) waiver participants ages one to 21.

It is extensive hands-on help for at least two of the seven key activities of daily living (ADL). They include:

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Eating
- Hygiene
- Mobility
- Toileting
- Transferring



To qualify for CAC services, the child must require hands-on support that exceeds the range of tasks a family member or responsible person would normally perform in the household for a person without a disability or chronic illness of the same age.

## What are the children's attendant caregiver requirements?

An approved caregiver for CAC must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Effectively communicate with the child's care team
- Be physically able to perform the duties on the plan for care
- Complete required documents and follow billing procedures
- Pass a background check with fingerprinting. Have no known convictions for abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults or children; crime against another person; or felony conviction of any kind
- Submit a tuberculosis screening
- Complete required CPR and first aid training
- Do training to perform tasks on the care plan

## What is the difference in children's personal care and CAC?

MCC waiver participants and/or families have two options for in-home care services. They are children's personal care or CAC. For children's personal care, they can use an in-home care agency and personal care aide. For CAC, they can use self-direction.

## What is self-direction?

Instead of using an in-home care agency, participants who choose this option will manage their own CAC services.

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## What are the benefits of CAC?

Choosing CAC allows the MCC waiver participant and/or family member to:

- Manage recruitment and retention of paid caregiver(s) of choice
- Hire qualified family members, including a parent of a minor child, to be the paid children's attendant caregiver
- Have more control of scheduling service hours
- Supervise staff

## What is the role of the participant and family members?

An MCC waiver participant and/or family wishing to choose the CAC option can expect to do the following:

- Tell the waiver nurse case manager (NCM) of their interest in this option
- Follow all the policies and procedures required for CAC
- Report abuse, neglect, exploitation and fraud
- Meet and keep qualifications if serving as the CAC
- Communicate with the care coordination team. This team is made up of the NCM, the University of South Carolina (USC) nurse, child's health care team and others
- Play an active role in the management and monitoring of the health, well-being and safety of the participant



## What is the role of the waiver NCM?

The waiver NCM supports the participant and family's commitment to quality care goals by:

- Informing the participant and/or family about their options for care in the home
- Explaining the benefits, risks and responsibilities of CAC
- Referring the participant and/or family to the USC nurse
- Maintaining communication with the participant and/or family, applicable vendors and the attendant
- Report suspicions of abuse, neglect, exploitation and fraud
- Monitor participant health, welfare and safety with mandatory, quarterly in-home visits and monthly phone contacts plus other communication as needed

## How do I enroll in CAC?

To enroll in CAC, you must reach out to your waiver NCM.

## How do I learn more about CAC?

To learn more about CAC, please reach out to your MCC NCM. You can also visit [www.scdhhs.gov/MCC](http://www.scdhhs.gov/MCC). The participant must be enrolled in the MCC waiver program to take part in this service.