

Questions and Answers Regarding the Reporting of Personal Assistance Services for the MIG Quarterly Reports

October 30, 2003

1. *When counting those "served" by a waiver, do you want states to provide the number who are "on" the waiver, or the number who are actually receiving PAS services (as opposed to other waiver services)? I believe the first number is what most states are able to report; the latter would be more problematic.*

We want the number on the waiver on the assumption that all covered under the waiver will have access to PAS based on need.

2. *States are assuming they should count individuals in any disability-related Medicaid category, age 18-64, NOT just Buy-in enrollees. Is this correct?*

That is correct. In order for a waiver to count toward eligibility, it must have been amended to include the Medicaid buy-in group. Again, the issue is whether personal assistance services are available to people who want to work.

3. *Should the disability groups be mutually exclusive or can states provide duplicated counts? Some states can report one or the other but not both. Although there is no clear consensus on which is most feasible, it appears that few states have primary disability information at hand or other means to create mutually exclusive groupings (we know of two 209(b) states that seem to have it though they haven't had the chance to explore it).*

They should be mutually exclusive. We do not want duplicated counts within a waiver.

4. *A related question: As you and I discussed, states could just report the number of people on a waiver serving a particular disability population as the number in that disability category being served by the waiver. We'd just like to confirm that this would be an acceptable approach. Of course, this approach won't work for the states that don't have a PD-specific waiver, it won't identify anyone with mental illness being served, it won't work for state plan PAS services, and it won't show how many people have more than one type of disability.*

If a waiver is disability specific (e.g., MR, DD, HIV/AIDS) then use the total number of individuals served under the waiver for the quarter. If the waiver is not disability specific or is a state plan amendment, then you will need to figure the numbers based on PAS utilization from the MMIS. States may need to use claims data to determine disability type.

5. States are working hard to respond to these new items and provide good information. The short timeframe is posing a challenge especially for MIGs that have to request data from other state divisions, so some information may be incomplete as of the 31st.

We are sensitive to this issue. If it is not possible, leave it blank in the report but let us know by e-mail that the information will be forthcoming.

6. Is the waiver number that you're looking for just the "base number" or do you need the suffix also?

We would like the suffix included.

7. Regarding the Revised Instructions for completing the CMS Web-based Quarterly and Annual Reports, it requires that we provide headcounts on the number of individuals served with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and physical disabilities. I am looking into it, but I don't believe we capture this, except to say if you're in our DD waiver then.... We don't have an MI waiver, nor one specifically for physical disabilities. Short of creating a lot of complicated programming to examine diagnosis codes and make judgment calls, I do not see how we can provide a response for each waiver. Also, just curious, why not ask about MR or AIDS?

You are correct about the DD waiver. It is probably limited to that population. An MR waiver would be the same as a DD waiver from our perspective. AIDS would be considered a physical disability. If you do not have a waiver geared to people with mental illness, then they are probably not covered by waivers. If you have a state plan amendment for PAS that does not exclude anyone, then you will probably need to determine the numbers by using the MMIS claims data for mental health and mental retardation services. See the response to question 4.

REMINDER: Remember to save your work regularly. Be careful with the entry of numbers and dates. There is a 300-character limit on text entry fields. We encourage everyone to be brief and make sure that you stay within the limits.