

At the hearing, Imani Robinson, a registered Nurse and Clinical Care Coordinator for United, testified regarding the assessment she conducted using the PCA Tool regarding Petitioner's need for PCA hours. The new assessment was performed on August 28, 2019 and scored Petitioner as requiring 18 hours of assistance.

PCA services are non-emergency, health related tasks to help individuals with activities of daily living (ADLs) and with household duties essential to the individual's health and comfort, such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation and light housekeeping. The decision regarding the appropriate number of hours is based on the tasks necessary to meet the specific needs of the individual and the hours necessary to complete those tasks. Once PCA services are authorized, a nursing reassessment is performed every twelve months or more frequently if warranted, to reevaluate the individual's need for continued care. N.J.A.C. 10:60-3.5(a)3. The assessments use the State-approved PCA Nursing Assessment Tool to calculate the hours.

The response from Petitioner that caused the reduction in hours was that his daughter lived with him on weekends. Petitioner testified at the hearing that his daughter was a minor and stayed with him every other weekend. I agree with the Initial Decision determination that assistance from his minor daughter should not have been part of the PCA assessment. Without taking that assistance into account, Petitioner hours remain at 20 hours a week.

Based on my review of the record and based on the fact contained therein, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision. Petitioner's PCA hours should be set at 20 hours a week until his next assessment. Should Petitioner's condition change before that time he may request a new reassessment.

THEREFORE, it is on this 22nd day of DECEMBER 2020,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.



Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services