

PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

POLICY: MEDICAL CARE AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Applies to: All Personnel, Volunteers, Persons Served, Families, Advocates and Caregivers

Original Approval Date: 1993

Date Board Approved: September 23, 2024

Replaces Policy Dated: October 19, 2017

Board Member's Signature

PREAMBLE

Pathways Abilities Society recognizes health care is a fundamental priority for all people. Health is a critical enabler of a person's ability to live life to the fullest. Good health allows us to live our lives to the fullest, participate in activities we enjoy, and be there for the people we care about.

It is essential for caregivers to monitor for signs and symptoms of health issues and to express their concerns. Employees of Pathways Abilities Society are required to actively monitor the health and healthcare access of individuals and advocate for high-quality healthcare for those we support.

POLICY

Pathways Abilities Society staff will teach and encourage individuals to be as independent as possible with their health care and related care needs.

Pathways Abilities Society staff will document all cases of illness and report them to the supervisor, who will contact the appropriate person. Except in emergencies or when specifically requested by the individual, caregiver or family member, doctor's visits are the primary responsibility of the Individual and their care provider.

When Pathways Abilities Society is the primary caregiver, all health care needs and concerns will be managed by the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or designate. They collaborate with the individual, their doctors, and/or family to determine the appropriate plan of action. Individuals will have the autonomy to choose who accompanies them to health-related appointments. The accompanying staff member from Pathways Abilities Society will ensure the completion of the Medical/Dentist Visit Report form, and/or a summarize discussion is documented.

At a minimum, when Pathways Abilities Society is the primary caregiver, or the individual is in agency coordinated home share, individuals will visit the following:

- If there is no prescription for glasses and/or an optometrist deems the health of the individual's eyes to be good then the individual will see an optometrist every two years.

Otherwise, the frequency an individual will see an optometrist will be at the discretion of the optometrist.

- An individual will see a registered audiologist or registered hearing instrument practitioner if there is any sign of hearing deficit or at age 50. If the specialist deems the hearing to be sufficient the individual will see the hearing specialist every 2-5 years or sooner if a hearing deficit is noticed. If a hearing deficit is detected by the specialist the individual will see the specialist at the discretion of the specialist. If hearing aids are prescribed the individual will see the specialist annually or as needed. When booking the appointment, they will be informed if the person is non-verbal.

- Physicians:

- Annually a complete physical.

- A pap smear starting after age 25 and then every 3 years unless otherwise indicated by the physician until the age of 69 years.

- A mammogram starting after age 40 and then every 2 years unless otherwise indicated by the physician.

- The physician will determine whether a prostate exam should be done during the annual physical.

Vaccinations (if the individual and/or family consent) Requirements:

- Influenza annually in the month of October or November.

- A shingles vaccine for people 60 years of age and older.

- Pneumonia vaccine at 65 years of age and older.

- Tetanus/diphtheria vaccine every 10 years.

- Pertussis booster if recommended.

- Any other pertinent vaccinations recommended by the individual's physician.

The decision of the individual not to attend to the above medical procedures will be respected and documented. Some individuals have representation agreements or alternate legal decision makers. These representatives will be consulted regarding medical procedures.

Pathways Abilities Society staff will follow and adhere to recommendations made by health care personnel.