

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: October 19, 2017

Replaces Policy Dated: January 28, 2013

Board Member's Signature

PREAMBLE

Pathways Abilities Society recognizes health care is a priority for all people. Good health is what gives us the ability to be able to do what we do to be active participants in our community. People who care, watch for signs and symptoms of ailing health and express their concerns. Pathways Abilities Society employees must be active in monitoring individual's health and health care access and advocating for good health care for the people we support.

POLICY

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

Pathways Abilities Society staff will document all cases of illness and report them to the supervisor who will contact the appropriate person. Other than in an emergency or as requested by the individual, caregiver or family member, doctor's visits are the primary responsibility of the care provider.

When Pathways Abilities Society is the primary caregiver, all health care concerns will be managed by the supervisor who will determine with the individual, their doctor and/or family the required appropriate plan of action. Individuals will choose who accompanies them to health related appointments. The accompanying Pathways Abilities Society staff will ensure the Medical/Dentist Visit Report form is completed.

Minimally 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.