

Memorandum

To: Home Health Agency Executive Directors
From: Lorraine Wargo, Individual Supports Unit Director, DDAS
Date: September 14, 2006
Re: Choices for Care and Hospice

This memo is to clarify the Department's position for serving individuals on both Choices for Care and Hospice.

Since July 18, 2005, it has been the policy of the Department to allow participants of the Choices for Care program to enroll onto Hospice services without being terminated from the program. This agreement was dependent upon the home health agencies' assurance that Choices for Care services would not increase in cost after enrollment onto Hospice.

To further clarify, the existing Hospice Agreement ***does not include individuals who are currently receiving Hospice services and then subsequently apply to the Choices for Care program.*** At this point in time, the Department is not approving the Choices for Care program for individuals who are eligible for Hospice services at the time of their Choices for Care application. I know that we are jointly committed to ensuring that Vermonters are able to spend their final days at home if at all possible. To that end, we want you to keep us informed if the above procedure is not furthering that goal.

Please use the attached "Notice" included with the "Hospice Agreement" to report dual participants to the local Long-Term Care Clinical Coordinator (LTCCC), Choices for Care case manager and Waterbury DAIL office.

Thank you.

Attachment

CC: Patrick Flood/Theresa Wood
AAA Executive Directors
AAA Case Management Supervisors
OVHA – Lori Collins
Adele Edelman/ Nancy Marinelli/ Megan Tierney-Ward/ LTCCCS