

<b>CHAPTER:</b> 4	HOME HEALTH SERVICES CHOICE IN SUPPORTS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CSIL)	<b>NUMBER:</b> 4.C.4
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<b>SUBSECTION:</b> 4	PAYMENT TO FAMILY MEMBERS	<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> APRIL 1, 2011

### Intent

To clarify how family members can be paid as caregivers, in exceptional circumstances, for providing home and community care services to eligible home support clients.

### Policy

Family members may be paid as caregivers while providing care to clients who have been approved to receive home support services through the Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) option or for admission to a family care home (see Policy 5.D, Family Care Home Services).

### Definitions

*child* is a child of any age, of the client, including stepchildren, adoptive children, daughters-in-law and sons-in-law.

*family member* is anyone who is related to the client by blood, marriage, adoption or custom adoption (e.g., children, grandparents, etc.).

*immediate family member* is a parent, child or spouse.

*parent* is a parent of the client, including parents-in-law, step-parents and adoptive parents.

*spouse* is a person who is married to or is living in a marriage-like relationship with, a client and, for the purposes of this definition, the marriage or marriage-like relationship may be between persons of the same gender.

### General

A family member, except an immediate family member, may be paid to provide care for a CSIL or family care home client.

A family member who is paid to provide care for a client must comply with all policies, procedures and standards that apply to these services, and cannot be the client's CSIL representative or a member of the client support group.

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Health authorities are required to discuss with the client, client support group or CSIL representative the following risks associated with paying a family member:

- the potential risk for conflicts of interest;
- the potential risk to negatively impact the health and quality of life of the client and caregiver; and
- if the client has complex care needs and is considering having only one family member providing care, whether that situation is realistic and appropriate.

#### **Exception to Allow Payment to an Immediate Family Member**

An immediate family member cannot be paid to provide care for a client unless an exception is approved by the health authority. In order to be considered for an exception, the client, client support group or CSIL representative must submit an application for an exception in the required form.

Health authorities may approve an exception to pay an immediate family member if the following four criteria are met as per the Payment to Family Guidelines (2011):

1. the client, CSIL representative or client support group wishes to pay an immediate family member to provide assessed services (as per Policy 2.D, Assessment) that the health authority would otherwise provide either through Choice in Supports for Independent Living or a family care home.
2. the health authority has determined there is no appropriate and available caregiver to provide for any extraordinary or unique needs of the client for one or more of the following reasons:
  - nature and degree of care required;
  - rural or remote location;
  - cultural barriers; and
  - communication barriers.
3. the family circumstances of the client have been considered and the risks are considered manageable.
4. the client's care plan includes appropriate respite for the immediate family member.

Health authorities must review the exception at least annually. Approval may be withdrawn if the health authority determines:

- the criteria no longer apply; or
- the client's needs are not being met.

#### **Reference**

Payment to Family Guidelines, Ministry of Health, Home and Community Care, 2011