



**TO:** Contracted MyCare Ohio Plans

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**DATE:** March 5, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Clarifications Related to Home Delivered Meals Waiver Service

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As you are aware, ODM recently made significant changes (effective 1/1/19) to the home delivered meals definition for the nursing facility level of care waivers. Previously, the Ohio Home Care home delivered meals definition (in rule 5160-46-04 prior to 1/1/19) stated home delivered meals shall not supplement or replace meal preparation activities that occur during the provision of personal care aide. Our new home delivered meals definition (5160-44-11) does not have such an exclusion. ODM has heard concerns from stakeholders and members that managed care plans have been reluctant to authorize a home delivered meal during the time of personal care aide, as well as concerns that plans are reducing home delivered meals when increasing personal care aide hours.

As always, plans are expected to manage the care for their members within the parameters of rules, the 3-way contract and the provider agreement. ODM is reminding the plans that a waiver services plan should be person centered. Assuming a member meets eligibility, the situation between home delivered meals and personal care aide should be member driven. If a member prefers their personal care aide to prepare their meal, that is within the scope of the services. However, if a member would prefer a home delivered meal during this time, the member should have access to a home delivered meal.

As a reminder, the FFS rate for home delivered meals was also updated 1/1/19. However, plans and providers have the ability to agree to a rate that is different than FFS.