

Comparison of Home and Community Habilitation (Unlicensed) and Companion for ISP Teams

Purpose: The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has developed a comparison chart for Home and Community Habilitation (Unlicensed) and Companion Services to clarify the appropriate service to be used when developing an Individual Support Plan (ISP).

	Home and Community Habilitation (HCH)	Companion
Definition:	<p>Before utilizing this service ask the question “what are the skills that will be worked on during HCH service?” This is a direct service (face-to-face) designed to assist individuals in acquiring, maintaining, and improving self-help, domestic, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in home and community-based settings. Services consist of support in the general areas of self-care, communication, fine and gross motor skills, mobility, personal adjustment, relationship development, socialization, and use of community resources. Through the provision of this service individuals will acquire, maintain, or improve skills necessary for individuals to live in the community, to live more independently, or to be more productive and participatory in community life.</p> <p>When determining the need for this service consider/address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific skills the individual needs to acquire maintain or improve? • Is the outcome of this service for the participant to learn, acquire, maintain and/or improve a skill? • Is there a measurable Outcome for habilitation? • How many units of service are needed in a day/week to acquire the skill? • Service documentation shall verify that the services delivered support/relate directly to that outcome. 	<p>Companion services are provided to individuals living in private homes for the limited purposes of providing supervision and assistance that is focused solely on the health and safety of the adult individual with an intellectual disability. This service can also be used to supervise individuals during socialization or non-habilitative activities when necessary to ensure the individual’s safety. Companions may supervise and provide assistance with daily living activities, including grooming, health care, household care, meal preparation and planning, and socialization.</p> <p>When determining the need for this service consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine that companions are either supervising or providing care and assistance that is focused solely on the health and safety of the individual. • Companion Services are used when there is no habilitative outcome for the individual associated with the delivery of the service. • The individual is not learning, enhancing, or maintaining a skill. • The outcome related to Companion services only relates to assistance to and supervision of the individual to ensure health and welfare. • Does the individual need supervision during overnight hours?
Can a family or a relative provide this service?	Yes	No

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Can this service be provided at the same time with any other waiver services?	Home and Community Habilitation service may be provided at the same time as Therapy, Nursing, and Behavioral Support Services. All providers should coordinate schedules and service delivery to ensure consistency in services to individuals.	Only Support Coordination service may be provided at the same time as Companion services.
Can this service be used during overnight or asleep hours?	This service may be provided during overnight hours when the individual needs the habilitation (acquiring, maintaining, and improving self-help, domestic, socialization, and adaptive skills) service to protect their health and welfare. The staff providing the Home and Community Habilitation Service must be awake. If the individual only needs supervision during overnight hours, the appropriate service is Companion.	This service may be provided during overnight hours when only supervision or non-medical or non-habilitative care is needed to protect the safety of the individual. The staff providing the Companion Service must be awake.

Similarities between Home & Community Habilitation & Companion

- **Setting** – They are direct service (face-to-face) provided in home and community settings. Services are not available for individuals residing in agency-owned, rented/leased, or operated homes or licensed settings.
- **Transportation** – Transportation necessary to enable the individual to participate in the service is included.
- **Service Limit** – Companion Services and Home and Community Habilitation have a maximum combined limit of 24 hours (96 15-minute units) per individual per calendar day whether used in combination or alone.
- **Service Area** – Services can be delivered in Pennsylvania and in states contiguous to Pennsylvania. During temporary travel, this service may be provided in other locations as per the ODP travel policy.

Home & Community Habilitation & Companion is NOT:

- Able to be delivered in a licensed provider setting
- Available for individuals residing in agency-owned, rented/leased, or operated homes or licensed settings.
 - The exception to this is if HCH is being provided as an alternative to day program supports. However, HCH cannot be rendered in the individual’s licensed residence; it is expected to take place in the community as the intent is for the individual to have meaningful day activities during the receipt of HCH.
- Delivered in a setting that is segregated location with 4 or more people. When 4 or people are receiving a service in a location that serves only individuals with Intellectual Disability, the setting must be licensed. HCH is an unlicensed service that is not to be rendered in licensed setting.

NOTE: 16 hours or more of HCH per day requires the completion of the ISP Review Checklist, Form DP 1050 (see Informational Packet #020-13)