



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
 3 West Road, Virks Building, Cranston, RI 02920
 phone: 401.462.5274 fax: 401.462.3677

Name of Regulation: 210-RICR-20-00-1, Medicaid Payments and Providers
 Posted for Public Comment on December 8, 2023
 Public hearing held on December 21, 2023
 Comment Period Ended on January 8, 2024
 Summary Response to Comments February 23, 2024

	Respondent	Nature of the Comments	EOHHS' Response
	Jenn Crosbie Director, Government Relations Careforth January 6, 2024	Shared Living Caregivers do not meet the definition of 'provider'.	Providers include "individual[s] . . . who are engaged in the delivery of medical/behavioral health care services" under Section 1.3(A)(6), which includes shared living caregivers who are reimbursed by Medicaid to provide routine, unsupervised care to participants enrolled in the program.
		There is no evidence of increased incidents of Shared Living Caregivers committing fraud, waste or abuse.	Shared living caregivers are not required to be licensed by the state and are engaged in the provision of unsupervised direct care services to older adults and adults with disabilities in the home. This presents a health and safety concern and an increased risk of abuse.
		If the purpose of the proposed revision is to solidify recently imposed National Criminal Background Checks for Shared Living Caregivers, the State could do so through existing Rlte @ Home Program Standards.	EOHHS will include fingerprinting requirements in the Program Standards that are currently being revised. Fingerprinting requirements must also be stated in regulation.
		Classifying Shared Living Caregivers as providers when they are not and labeling them as likely to commit fraud, waste or abuse could have unintended and harmful consequences	This language does not change current practice, as Shared Living caregivers are already required to undergo a national criminal records check supported by fingerprints under § 1.6(C)(3) of the regulation and associated provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-7.2-18.3. This additional language solidifies that this requirement also exists under a separate provision, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-7.2-18.1.



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