

# Policy

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## Purpose

The purpose of Transition and Continuity of Care is to ensure that coordination and appropriate continuation of health care services occur when:

- The treating provider of a member with a qualifying condition leaves the Longevity Health Network or
- A member with a qualifying condition is new to Longevity Health and has out of network providers.

## Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
LH	Longevity Health, the Plan
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
PAR	Participating provider, under a contract with the Plan, with an agreement to provide health services to covered persons with an expectation of receiving payment, other than coinsurance, copayments, or deductibles, directly or indirectly from the Plan.
Non-PAR	Non-participating provider or entity that is not contracted or in network with the Plan
APP	Advanced Practice Provider, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Advanced Practice Nurse
Active Treatment	Regular visits to a practice for managing and monitoring the status of an illness or disorder that has not stabilized, providing direct treatment, prescribing medication(s), or other treatment or modifying the treatment plan. For acute illness, defined as a period of 3-4 weeks before enrollment or provider status change. For recent surgical procedures, 6-8 weeks post-operative.
Continuity of Care	The process where existing Plan members in active treatment with Par provider whose contract with Longevity Health is terminated (for reasons other than quality deficiencies) or who choose to leave the Network are evaluated and managed for ongoing care under the terms of their member benefits and Network plan design, generally for up to 90 days.
Transition of Care	The process where new Plan members, in active treatment by a non-Par provider at the time their Longevity Health coverage takes effect, are evaluated and managed for ongoing care under the terms of their member benefits and Network plan design for a period of up to 90 days from their effective date with the Plan.
Network	A group of participating (PAR) providers providing services to members of the Plan.
Provider	Any physician, dentist, optometrist, anesthesiologist, hospital, imaging center, laboratory, ambulance service, or other person or entity that is licensed or otherwise authorized in the state to furnish health care services.

## Policy

Longevity Health actively works to establish and implement internal procedures for ensuring a comprehensive approach to providing medical, behavioral, and other services to Longevity Health members. It is the intent of Longevity Health to meet all applicable state and federal regulatory and accreditation requirements pertaining to continuity and transition of care. This includes applicable requirements that every contract between Longevity Health and a participating (PAR) provider will include provisions for continuity of care.

## **Continuity of Care**

Existing members who are under the care of a doctor, hospital, or other provider who leaves the Longevity Health Network may be eligible for continuity of care. When a PAR provider leaves the Longevity Health Network, continuity of care allows for the member to continue receiving these services at in-network coverage levels for specific medical and behavioral conditions for a defined period if there are significant clinical reasons preventing immediate transfer of care to a PAR provider.

1. The assigned Advanced Practice Provider (APP) should discuss the non-PAR provider with their leadership to determine if continuation with the provider is appropriate and/or if it is appropriate for the member to transition care to a PAR provider.
2. If an existing member is under the care of a PAR provider for an acute or serious chronic condition that cannot safely and effectively be transferred when the PAR provider leaves the Longevity Health Network, treatment by the provider may continue for a period of up to 90 days.
  - For standard requests, approval will be made in 30 day increments up to 3 times.
  - Referrals will be made by the care team to assist the member to transition to a PAR provider for continued treatment of the acute or chronic condition.

*Note: The above will not be applicable to providers whose contract with Longevity Health has been terminated or not renewed for reasons related to medical disciplinary action, cause, or reason, fraud, or other criminal activity.*

## **Transition of Care**

New members who join Longevity Health may need a period of Transition of Care which allows the member to remain with their current provider(s) and treatment(s) until they can transition to PAR providers.

1. The assigned Advanced Practice Provider (APP) should discuss the non-PAR provider with their leadership to determine if continuation with the provider is appropriate and/or if it is appropriate for the member to transition care to a PAR provider.
2. If the new member is under the care of a non-PAR provider for an acute or serious chronic condition that cannot safely and effectively be transferred to a PAR provider, treatment by the non-PAR provider may continue for a period of up to 90 days.
  - For standard requests, approval will be made in 30 day increments up to 3 times.
  - Referrals will be made by the care team to assist the member to transition to a PAR provider for continued treatment of the acute or chronic condition.

## **Acute or Serious Chronic Condition Examples**

- Acute Illness such as myocardial infarction, cerebral vascular event, acute exacerbation of a chronic or disabling illness, recent major surgery, major trauma
- Staged surgical procedures that were already initiated
- Terminal illness with survival expectancy of less than 180 days
- Recently diagnosed cancer in the midst of treatment and/or reconstruction
- Transplantation, recent candidacy, unstable recipient, complications in active treatment
- Mental illness, substance abuse disorder undergoing active treatment

## Change Log

Document Version	Major or Minor Revision?	Date	Name	Comments
NEW		9/29/2022	Courtney Gonzales	NEW

## Appendices



Continuity of Care  
Decision Tree.pdf