



ASSESSMENT CHANGES UPDATE OCTOBER 2025

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 10/16/2025

In April 2025, H.B. 2945 became law. One part of this legislation required AHCCCS to develop a strengthened standardized assessment tool for Support Coordinators (SCs) to use to identify extraordinary care needs when assessing for Attendant Care and Habilitation. Support Coordinators began using this HCBS Needs Tool (HNT) at member planning meetings on October 1, 2025. [On Thursday, October 16, 2025, the Governor announced](#) that she has directed AHCCCS to pursue emergency rulemaking and have clinicians re-evaluate and make any appropriate changes to the HNT. These changes include the addition of an extraordinary care review (exception) process and new assessment categories, like specialty meal preparation, specialty eating, and specialty toileting.

AHCCCS will issue a limited, expedited public comment process for the relevant policies. Families, providers, clinicians, other experts, and interested parties will have the opportunity to provide feedback during expedited comment and feedback periods. AHCCCS will continue to update the community regarding the rulemaking and policy change timeline.

AHCCCS is implementing a pause on all HNT assessments until the relevant AHCCCS policies are finalized.

For DDD members under the age of 18 who have been assessed using the assessment tool implemented on October 1, service hours will not be reduced until they are reassessed using the updated HNT at their next scheduled planning meeting. Their authorized hours will revert to the amount previously assessed. If the assessment resulted in an increase in authorized hours, those authorizations will go into effect.

Support Coordinators will continue conducting scheduled PCSP meetings as normal, with the exception that the HNT will not be utilized until further notice. Once additional information is available from AHCCCS, any applicable changes and next steps will be communicated as soon as possible to Qualified Vendors, members, families, and Support Coordinators. For now, more information can be found in the [AHCCCS Emergency Rule and Policy FAQ](#).