

# Fact Sheet on Newly Proposed Medically Fragile Technology Dependent (MFTD) Waiver

## 99% of Children—the Most Fragile—No Longer Qualify

- Illinois submitted its official proposal for the MFTD Waiver to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) on June 5, 2012, to replace the program that expires 8/31/2012.
- **99% of children currently in the program are no longer eligible.**
  - From 2007-2012, this program had 700 slots, 666 of which were reserved for children at a Hospital level of care, which means physicians have determined these children would live in a hospital without home services, as they are too fragile or complicated for a nursing home. 34 slots were reserved for less fragile children at the Nursing Home level of care.
  - Hospital level children in the MFTD Waiver tend to have tracheostomy tubes, use ventilators, and/or receive IV nutrition.
  - In its 2012 report on this program, Illinois stated that 610 (99%) unique participants were at a Hospital level of care, and 9 (1%) were at a Nursing Home level of care.
  - In its June 5, 2012 proposal to CMS, Illinois would reserve all 700 slots in the program for children at a Nursing Home level of care, thus removing 666 slots for children at a Hospital level of care.
- The proposal replaces children who have the highest levels of medical fragility and higher costs with children who have lower levels of medical complexity and technology, who already receive private duty nursing through the regular state Medicaid plan.
  - Apart from the MFTD waiver, 527 children in Illinois received private duty nursing through the regular Medicaid program in 2010. In contrast to children in the MFTD Waiver, these children have lower levels of need, such as tube feedings or oxygen only. These children are typically at a Nursing Home level of care.
  - Illinois plans to add these 527 children to the MFTD waiver, which remains limited to 700 spots, even though the state currently has a total of 1146 children receiving private duty nursing. While the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has alternately claimed either no children or only 36 children would lose services as a result of these changes, at least 446 children would have to lose services if all children with private duty nursing are transferred to the MFTD waiver.
  - The waiver proposal explicitly states that if children are Hospital level of care—99% of current participants—they are ineligible for the program.
- Illinois is claiming to renew the MFTD Waiver and protect the children in it, but close examination of their proposal reveals it is only doing so by replacing 99% of current participants with children who already receive Medicaid services and are less expensive and medically needy.
- Hundreds of children may be hospitalized on September 1, 2012 if this proposal is approved by the federal government.

### Sources:

- 2012 Renewal Application for the MFTD Waiver: <http://savemftdwaiver.com/MFTD2012application.pdf>
- 2007 Approved MFTD Waiver Document: <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/waiver0278.pdf>
- 2012 Report on the MFTD Waiver: <http://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/agency/Documents/2012mftd.pdf>
- Fact Sheet from HFS on the Newly Proposed MFTD Waiver Program: <http://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/SiteCollectionDocuments/MFTDFactSheet.pdf>