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State/Territory Name: Colorado

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 23-0028-B

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS Form 179
- 3) Approved SPA Page

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
601 E. 12th St., Room 355
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

December 19, 2023

Kim Bimestefer, Executive Director
Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Colorado State Plan Amendment 23-0028-B


Dear Director Bimestefer:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has completed its review of Colorado's State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal #23-0028-B, submitted on October 11, 2023. The SPA will allow Medicaid members 12 sessions of speech therapy before prior authorization is required.

CMS approved SPA #23-0028-B on December 19, 2023, with an effective date of December 1, 2023. Enclosed is a copy of the CMS-179 summary form, as well as the approved pages for incorporation into the Colorado State Plan.

If you have any questions regarding this amendment, please contact Mandy Strom at Mandy.Strom@cms.hhs.gov or by telephone at (303) 844-7068.

Sincerely,


James G. Scott, Director
Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

cc: Adela Flores-Brennan, CO State Medicaid Director
Erica Schaler, Colorado Medicaid

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 2 3 — 0 0 2 8-B* 2. STATE CO

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT XIX XXI

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE
~~July 1, 2023~~ **December 1, 2023***

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION
42 CFR 440.110

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)
a FFY 2023 \$ 29,571
b FFY 2024 \$ 111,588

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT
Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A, Physical Therapy and Related Services, Item 11c. Services for individuals with speech, hearing, and language disorders (provided by or under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist) (Page 2 of 2)

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)
Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A, Physical Therapy and Related Services, Item 11c. Services for individuals with speech, hearing, and language disorders (provided by or under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist) (Page 2 of 2)(TN: CO-17-0038)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT
The State Plan Amendment allows Medicaid members 12 sessions of speech therapy before prior authorization is required.

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)
 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL
 OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:
Governor's letter dated 5 April 2023

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL
[Redacted Signature]
12. TYPED NAME
Adela Flores-Brennan
13. TITLE
State Medicaid Director
14. DATE SUBMITTED
10/11/23

15. RETURN TO
**Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203-1818
Attn: Alex Lyons**

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED
October 11, 2023

17. DATE APPROVED
December 19, 2023

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL
December 1, 2023

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
[Redacted Signature]

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
James G. Scott

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS
***State requested pen & ink change to box 4 of the 179 on December 18, 2023.
*State requested pen & ink change to SPA number on December 19, 2023.**

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

STATE OF COLORADO

Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A
Page 2 of 2

LIMITATIONS TO CARE AND SERVICES

- 11c. Services for individuals with speech, hearing, and language disorders (provided by or under the supervision of a speech-language pathologist or audiologist)
- Audiology services shall be provided by a licensed audiologist or an audiologist's aide. An audiologist's aide is a person who, after appropriate training and demonstrated competency, performs tests that are prescribed, directed, and supervised by a licensed audiologist as recommended by the American Academy of Audiology.

 - Speech-language pathology services may be provided by any of the following:
 - o A certified speech-language pathologist with a current certification by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association;
 - o A clinical fellow under the general supervision of an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist;
 - o A speech-language pathology assistant under the general supervision of a certified speech-language pathologist. A speech-language pathology assistant is a person who has an associate's degree from a technical training program in speech-language pathology assistants' scope of work as recommended in ASHA guidelines.

 - A medical prescription for services is required and the service/procedure must be a covered benefit of the Medicaid program.
Prior authorization is required for services to exceed 12 sessions per 12-month period.
Audiology services are only provided for the EPSDT population.
Speech-language pathology services provided for simple articulation or academic difficulties that are not medical in origin are not a covered benefit.