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State/Territory Name: Alabama

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #:16-0003

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Atlanta Regional Office
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 4T20
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



DIVISION OF MEDICAID & CHILDREN'S HEALTH OPERATIONS

September 30, 2016

Ms. Stephanie Azar, Commissioner
Alabama Medicaid Agency
501 Dexter Avenue
Post Office Box 5624
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624

Re: Title XIX State Plan Amendment, AL #16-0003

Dear Ms. Azar:

We have reviewed the proposed amendment to the Alabama Medicaid State Plan #16-0003 Primary Care Physician Enhanced Payments (PCP Bump) that was received in the Regional Office on July 21, 2016. This state plan amendment ends enhanced payments to primary care physicians for the dates of service on or after August 1, 2016. The payment reductions will impact physicians with a primary specialty designation of family medicine, pediatric medicine or internal medicine under the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 447.400. The change affects payments for certain primary care services and for vaccine administration services under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

Based on the information provided, we are now ready to approve the Medicaid State Plan Amendment AL-16-0003. This SPA was approved on September 30, 2016. The effective date of this amendment is August 1, 2016. We are enclosing the approved form HCFA-179 and plan pages.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Raymundo at 404-562-7406.

Sincerely,

//s//

Jackie Glaze
Associate Regional Administrator
Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

Enclosures

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL		1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: AL-16-0003	2. STATE Alabama
FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION		3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)	
TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE August 1, 2016	
5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (<i>Check One</i>):			
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW STATE PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDMENT			
COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (<i>Separate Transmittal for each amendment</i>)			
6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION: 42 C.F.R. PTS 438,441, and 447		7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT: FFY 2016 savings of \$3.8 million	
8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT: Attachment 4.19-B page 2c and 2d		9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (<i>If Applicable</i>): Attachment 4.19-B page 2c and 2d	
10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: This amendment will end enhanced payments to primary care physicians, general internal medicine or pediatric medicine physicians for certain specified procedure codes for evaluation and management services and certain VFC administration codes.			
11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (<i>Check One</i>):			
<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED <input type="checkbox"/> NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: Governor's designee on file via letter with CMS	
12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL: //s//		16. RETURN TO: Stephanie McGee Azar Commissioner Alabama Medicaid Agency 501 Dexter Avenue Post Office Box 5624 Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624	
13. TYPED NAME: Stephanie McGee Azar			
14. TITLE: Commissioner			
15. DATE SUBMITTED: 07/21/16			
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
17. DATE RECEIVED: 07/21/16		18. DATE APPROVED: 09/30/16	
PLAN APPROVED – ONE COPY ATTACHED			
19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL: 08/01/16		20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL: //s//	
21. TYPED NAME: Jackie Glaze		22. TITLE: Associate Regional Administrator Division of Medicaid & Children Health Opns	
23. REMARKS:			

Physician Services

Attachment 4.19-B: Physician Services

The state will continue to reimburse for services provided by physicians with a primary specialty designation of family medicine, pediatric medicine or internal medicine as if the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 447.400 remain in effect. The rates will be those in effect for these services and providers during CY 2014. State of Alabama, general fund fiscal year 2015 appropriations allow for enhanced payments with dates of service October 1, 2015 through August 1, 2016. A provider must meet one of the following requirements listed below to qualify for the Alabama Medicaid Physicians Primary Care Enhanced Rates “Bump” Program.

- a. A provider must be Board certified with a specialty or subspecialty designation in family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatrics that is recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS), or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and must actually practice in their specialty.
- b. A NON-board certified provider who practices in the field of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatrics or a subspecialty under one of these specialties, is eligible if he/she can attest that sixty percent of their paid Medicaid procedures billed are for certain specified procedure codes for evaluation and management (E&M) services and certain Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine administration codes during the most recently completed CY or, for newly eligible physicians, the prior month.

Method of Payment

The state has adjusted its fee schedule to make payment at the higher rate for each E&M and vaccine administration code.

Primary Care Services Affected by this Payment Methodology

This payment applies to Evaluation and Management (E&M) billing codes 99201 through 99499 that are considered reimbursable by Alabama Medicaid. A list of codes and current rates are published and maintained on the agency’s website at http://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/6.0_Providers/6.6_Fee_Schedules/6.6_Physician_ACA%20Primary_Care_Fee_Schedule_Revised_3-1-14.pdf

Physician Services – Vaccine Administration

The state reimburses vaccine administration services furnished by physicians meeting the requirements of 42 C.F.R. § 447.400(a) at the regional maximum administration fee set by the Vaccines for children program.

The Alabama Medicaid Agency requires VFC administration fees to be billed using the specific product code (vaccine codes).

The following single product (vaccine) codes have been billed in lieu of vaccine administration codes since the inception for the VFC Program in Alabama.

90633 90636 90645 90647 90648 90649 90650 90655 90656 90657 90658 90660
90669 90670 90680 90681 90696 90698 90700 90702 90707 90710 90713 90714
90715 90716 90718 90721 90723 90732 90733 90734 90744 90748.

These codes will be cross walked to procedure 90460 for vaccine administration for eligible providers under 42 C.F.R. § 447.400.

Effective Date of Payment

This reimbursement methodology applies to services delivered between October 1, 2015 and August 1, 2016. All rates are published at (www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

Vaccine Administration

This reimbursement methodology applies to services delivered between October 1, 2015 and August 1, 2016. All rates are published at (www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

Supersedes Page: None