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**State/Territory Name: Washington**

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 18-0005**

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Seattle Regional Office  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600, MS/RX-200  
Seattle, WA 98104



Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

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March 13, 2018

Susan Birch, Director  
Health Care Authority  
PO Box 45502  
Olympia, WA 98504-5010

**RE: Washington State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal Number 18-0005.**

Dear Ms. Birch:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has completed its review of State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal Number WA 18-0005. This amendment updated the fee schedules for the following: all other practitioners, ambulatory surgical centers, applied behavioral analysis services, dental services, injectable drugs, outpatient hospital services, OPPS, physician-related services, school-based healthcare services, and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services.

This SPA is approved with an effective date of January 1, 2018.

If there are additional questions please contact me, or your staff may contact James Moreth at [James.Moreth@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:James.Moreth@cms.hhs.gov) or (360) 943-0469.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Associate Regional Administrator.

Associate Regional Administrator

cc:  
Ann Myers, SPA Coordinator

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF  
STATE PLAN MATERIAL**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER:  
**18-0005**

2. STATE  
Washington

**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  
January 1, 2018

5. TYPE OF PLAN MATERIAL (*Check One*):

NEW STATE PLAN       AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN       AMENDMENT

COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (*Separate Transmittal for each amendment*)

6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION:  
1902(a) of the Social Security Act

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT:  
a. FFY 2018 \$0  
b. FFY 2019 \$0

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:  
Attachment 4.19-B pages 5, 6, 14, 16-1, 16-3, 16-4, 21a, 22a, 25

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION  
OR ATTACHMENT (*If Applicable*):  
Attachment 4.19-B pages 5, 6, 14, 16-1, 16-3, 16-4, 21a,  
22a, 25

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT:  
January 1, 2018, Fee Schedule Effective Dates

11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (*Check One*):

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT       OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: Exempt  
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED  
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL:

13. TYPED NAME:  
MaryAnne Lindeblad

14. TITLE:  
Director

15. DATE SUBMITTED:  
2-6-18

16. RETURN TO:  
Ann Myers  
Rules and Publications  
Division of Legal Services  
Health Care Authority  
626 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SE MS: 42716  
Olympia, WA 98504-2716

**FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY**

17. DATE RECEIVED: 2/6/2018

18. DATE APPROVED: 3/13/18

**PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED**

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL: 1/1/18

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL:

21. TYPED NAME: David L. Meacham

22. TITLE: Associate Regional Administrator

23. REMARKS:

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: WASHINGTON**POLICY AND METHODS USED IN ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES FOR EACH OF THE OTHER TYPES OF CARE OR SERVICE LISTED IN SECTION 1905 (A) OF THE ACT THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THE PLAN (cont.)**

## II. Clinic Services (cont.)

For clients enrolled with a managed care contractor, and effective April 1, 2014, the State anticipates that the managed care contractor will pay each clinic an encounter rate that is at least equal to the PPS rate specific to each clinic.

To ensure that the appropriate amounts are being paid to each clinic, the State will perform an analysis of the managed care contractor's data at least quarterly and verify that the payments made by the managed care contractor in the previous quarter were in compliance with Section 1902(bb)(5)(A) of the SSA. This process will apply to clinics reimbursed under the APM rate methodology and to clinics reimbursed under the PPS rate methodology.

At no time will a managed care organization be at risk for or have any claim to the supplemental payment portion of the rate which will be reconciled to ensure accurate payment of the obligated funds.

Covered services for Medicaid-Medicare patients are reimbursed as detailed in Supplement 1 to Attachment 4.19 (B), pages 1, 2, and 3.

Encounters are limited to one per client per day, except when:

- The client needs to be seen by different practitioners with different specialties; or
- The client needs to be seen multiple times on the same day due to unrelated diagnoses.

## D. Non-hospital-owned Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) are reimbursed in a manner similar to Medicare's ASC reimbursement model in effect prior to January 1, 2008. All ASC procedure codes are fit into one of nine payment groups, with each group having its own payment rate. New procedure codes are associated with the appropriate payment group based on their weights, which are set by CMS under its payment methodology in effect from January 1, 2008, forward. Any new procedure code is put into the payment group containing weights with which it is most similar. The agency pays for the first billed procedure code at 100%, the second at 50% and the third and subsequent procedure codes at zero.

Implantable devices are paid separately. For devices, the ASC bills the agency the amount the facility paid for the device, based on a manufacturer's invoice. The agency pays the invoiced amount.

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of these services. The agency's rates were set as of January 1, 2018, and are effective for dates of services on and after that date.

See 4.19-B I, General #G, for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: WASHINGTON

## III. Physician Services

- A. Maximum allowable fees are established and updated using the Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) methodology as adopted in the Medicare Fee Schedule Data Base (MFSDB). In this methodology, under WAC 182-531-1850, the agency uses CMS-established relative value units (RVU) multiplied by both the Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCI) for Washington State (supplied by the Federal Register) and the conversion factors specific to Washington. The agency's conversion factor that is annually adjusted based on utilization and budget neutrality from year-to-year. For the current conversion factor, and further description, see Supplement 3 to Attachment 4.19-B.
- B. When no MFSDB RVU exists, some of the codes are reimbursed using flat fee (based upon market value, other state's fees, budget impacts, etc.), acquisition cost (the cost of the actual item being billed), Medicare Laboratory Fee Schedule, ASP (106% of ASP), and/or Point of Sale (POS) actual acquisition cost (AAC).

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of physician services. See 4.19-B I, General, #G for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: WASHINGTON**POLICY AND METHODS USED IN ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES FOR EACH OF THE OTHER TYPES OF CARE OR SERVICE LISTED IN SECTION 1905 (A) OF THE ACT THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THE PLAN (cont.)**

## VI. Dental Services and Dentures

- A. The Medicaid agency pays directly to the specific provider the lesser of the usual and customary charge or a fee based on an agency fee schedule for dentures and dental services that are provided within their specific scope of practice by dentists, dental hygienists, and denturists throughout the state. There are no geographical or other variations in the fee schedule.
- B. The usual and customary charge is defined as that fee usually charged for a given service by an individual dentist, dental hygienist, or denturist to private patients (e.g., that provider's usual fee) and which fee is within the range of usual fees charged by dentists, dental hygienists, or denturists of similar training and experience.
- C. Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of dentures, dental services and dental hygiene.

See 4.19-B I, General, #G for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

The agency's fee schedule rate was set as of January 1, 2018, and is effective for services provided on or after that date.

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## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: WASHINGTON

## VIII. Institutional Services (cont)

## A. Outpatient hospital services (cont)

- iii. Uses the wage index information established and published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at the time the OPPS rates are set for the upcoming year. Wage index information reflects labor costs in the cost-based statistical area (CBSA) where a hospital is located.
- iv. Calculates the hospital-specific graduate medical education (GME) by dividing the direct GME cost reported on worksheet B, part 1, of the CMS cost report by the adjusted total costs from the CMS cost report.
- v. Uses the EAPG software to determine the following discounts:
  - Multiple Surgery/Significant Procedure – 50%
  - Bilateral Pricing – 150%
  - Repeat Ancillary Procedures – 50%
  - Terminated Procedures – 50%
- vi. Establishes a policy adjustor of 1.35 for services to clients age 17 and under, and establishes a policy adjustor of 1.10 for chemotherapy and combined chemotherapy/pharmacotherapy groups. These policy adjustors are not exclusive.

The statewide standardized conversion factor and all hospital-specific adjustments are effective January 1, 2018. See 4.19-B, I, General, #G for the agency's website where the fee schedule and conversion factors are published.

- c. Effective for dates of admission on or after July 1, 2013, supplemental payments will be paid for outpatient Medicaid services not to exceed the upper payment limit as determined by the available federal financial participation for fee-for-service claims. The supplemental payment is based on the distribution amount mandated by the legislature to the following hospital categories as defined in RCW 74.60.010:
  - Prospective Payment hospitals other than psychiatric or rehabilitation hospitals
  - Psychiatric hospitals
  - Rehabilitation hospitals
  - Border hospitals.

For hospitals designated as prospective payment system (PPS) hospitals, \$60,000,000 per state fiscal year. For hospitals designated as out-of-state border area hospitals, \$500,000 per state fiscal year.

The payment is calculated by applying the Medicaid fee-for-service rates in effect on July 1, 2009, to each hospital's Medicaid and CHIP outpatient fee-for-service claims and Medicaid and CHIP managed care encounter data for the base year as defined in RCW 74.60.010. This sum is divided by the aggregate total of all hospitals within each category to determine the individual hospital pro rata share percentage. The individual hospital payment is the pro rata percentage multiplied by the amount mandated to be distributed by the Legislature within each hospital category.

The payment will be made quarterly, by dividing the total annual disbursement amount by four (4) to calculate the quarterly amount

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

## VIII. Institutional Services (cont)

## A. Outpatient hospital services (cont)

## 2. Fee Schedule

For non-CAH hospitals and covered services not paid using the OPPS or the “hospital outpatient rate”, the agency pays the lesser of the usual and customary charge or a fee based on an agency fee schedule for covered procedures.

Services paid using the agency’s fee schedule include, but are not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, corneal transplants, and other hospital services as identified and published by the agency.

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of outpatient hospital services. The agency’s outpatient fee schedule is effective for services provided on and after January 1, 2018. The fee schedule is updated quarterly in a budget neutral manner. See 4.19-B, I, General, #G for the agency’s website where the fee schedules are published.

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## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: WASHINGTON

## VIII. Institutional Services (cont)

## A. Outpatient hospital services (cont)

## 3. Hospital Outpatient Rate

The "hospital outpatient rate" is a hospital-specific rate having as its base the hospital's inpatient ratio of costs-to-charges (RCC) adjusted by an outpatient adjustment factor that factors annual cost and charge level changes into the rate. The "hospital outpatient rate" is used to reimburse under OPSS as explained earlier in this subsection, or for non-CAH hospitals exempt from the agency's OPSS, for all other covered outpatient services (those not mentioned in the previous paragraphs as covered by fee schedule) on the hospital's outpatient claim.

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of outpatient hospital services. The agency's outpatient fee schedule is effective for services provided on and after January 1, 2018. See 4.19-B, I, General, #G for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: WASHINGTON

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D. Rehabilitative Services

3. Alcohol/Drug Treatment and Detoxification Services

Payment for detoxification services provided in freestanding Medicaid Agency-approved alcohol/drug treatment centers is on a fee-for-service basis, with one day being the unit of service. The Medicaid Agency pays the lesser of the usual and customary charge or a fee based on an Agency fee schedule.

There is no room and board paid for these services.

Payment for alcohol/drug treatment services is provided to certified facilities on a fee-for-services basis for specific services. The Medicaid Agency pays the lesser of the usual and customary charge or a fee based on a Medicaid Agency fee schedule. There is no room and board paid for these services. Licensed chemical dependency professionals who are paid by the facility, provide services

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, payment for these services is based on fee schedule rates, which are the same for both governmental and private providers of alcohol/drug treatment and detoxification services. The Agency's rates were set as of January 1, 2018, and are effective for services rendered on or after that date. See 4.19-B I, General, #G, for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

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POLICY AND METHODS USED IN ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES FOR EACH OF THE OTHER TYPES OF CARE OR SERVICE LISTED IN SECTION 1905 (A) OF THE ACT THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THE PLAN (cont.)

## IX. Other Noninstitutional Services (cont.)

## School-based healthcare services

The fees for the codes under School-based Healthcare Services are established and updated using the Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) methodology as adopted in the Medicare Fee Schedule Data Base (MFSDB). In this methodology, under Washington Administrative Code, chapter 182-531, the agency uses CMS-established relative value units (RVUs) multiplied by the Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCI) and the conversion factors, both of which are specific to Washington. Current conversion factor, service descriptions, and their effective dates are found in Supplement 3 to Attachment 4.19-B.

Codes not valued under the RVU methodology are reimbursed using flat rate. These fees are based upon market value, other states' fees, budget impacts, etc.

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates for school-based healthcare services are the same as the rates paid to similar providers within the community outside of the school setting. See 4.19-B I, General, #G, for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

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POLICY AND METHODS USED IN ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES FOR EACH OF THE OTHER TYPES OF CARE OR SERVICE LISTED IN SECTION 1905 (A) OF THE ACT THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM UNDER THE PLAN (cont.)

## X. All Other Practitioners

“All other practitioners” refers to other practitioners as described in section 6.d of Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B.

The agency pays the lesser of the usual and customary charge, or a fee based on an agency fee schedule.

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of services and the fee schedule and any annual/periodic adjustments to the fee schedule(s).

The facility fees used to calculate the payment rates for intensive behavior services (Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services) in facility settings will be calculated using methods that are consistent with Medicaid State Plan attachment 4.19-B sections II and VIII. A Outpatient hospital services. Outpatient hospitals and clinics rendering intensive behavior services as a day program do not receive a facility fee in addition to the per diem rate identified on the state’s ABA Services fee schedule.

The agency’s fee schedule rate was set as of January 1, 2018, and is effective for dates of services provided on or after that date. See 4.19-B, I. General #G for the agency’s website where the fee schedules are published.

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