

---

## **Table of Contents**

**State/Territory Name: Washington**

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 19-0023**

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  
Seattle Regional Office  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600, MS/RX-200  
Seattle, WA 98104



Western Division - Regional Operations Group

---

August 27, 2019

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

**RE: Washington State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal Number 19-0023**

Dear Ms. Birch and Ms. Lindeblad:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has completed its review of State Plan Amendment (SPA) Transmittal Number WA 19-0023. This amendment was submitted to update the fee schedule effective dates of several Medicaid programs and services.

This SPA is approved with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

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 (206) 615-2043.

Sincerely,



David L. Meacham  
Deputy Director

Cc:  
Ann Myers, SPA Coordinator

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

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER:  
**19-0023**

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  
July 1, 2019

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 2019 \$0  
b. FFY 2020 \$0

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:  
Attachment 4.19-B pages 5, 16-1, 16-3, 16-4, 19, 20, ~~20a~~, 21a,  
23a, 25, 32 (P&I)

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION  
OR ATTACHMENT (*If Applicable*):  
Attachment 4.19-B pages 5, 16-1, 16-3, 16-4, 19, 20, ~~20a~~,  
21a, 23a, 25, 32 (P&I)

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT:

July 1 Fee Schedule Effective Date Updates

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:

8-12-19

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:  
8/12/19

18. DATE APPROVED: 8/27/19

**PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED**

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:  
7/1/19

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL: Digitally signed by David L. Meacham - S

21. TYPED NAME:  
David L. Meacham

22. TITLE:  
Deputy Director

Date: 2019.08.28 08:12:01 -07'00'

23. REMARKS:

8/21/19-The state authorized a P&I change to blocks # 8 and 9.

## 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 July 1, 2019, 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.

[Back to TOC](#)

## 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.)

## 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 OPSS 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 emotherapy/ pharmacotherapy groups. These policy adjustors are not exclusive.

The statewide standardized conversion factor and all hospital-specific adjustments are effective July 1, 2019. 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

---

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.)

## 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 July 1, 2019. 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.

## 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.)

## 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 July 1, 2019. 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.)

## IX. Other Noninstitutional Services

## A. Home Health

1. Home Health Agencies are reimbursed per-visit for services provided by acute nursing staff, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, hearing and language disorders therapy staff, and home health aides.

Reimbursement rates are determined using a historical base for the per-visit rates by profession, using the Medicare Metropolitan Statistical Area fees. Rate changes made through the Vendor Rate Increase (VRI) may be made only through the legislative process. Selected rates may also be adjusted through a special appropriation directed by the Washington State Legislature. The agency may set rates outside of the legislative process if the agency determines such actions are necessary to maintain access to critical services. The Washington State Legislature approved a \$10.00 per hour rate increase for skilled nursing services provided in a home setting, effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2016.

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

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of these services. The fee schedule is effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2019.. See 4.19-B, I, General, #G for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

2. Other Supplies and Services used in the home and other setting

The agency's reimbursement rates include:

- a) Any adjustments or modifications to the equipment that are either required within three months of the delivery date, or are covered under the manufacturer's warranty
- b) Pick-up, delivery, or associated costs such as mileage, travel time, or gas
- c) Telephone calls
- d) Shipping, handling, and postage
- e) Fitting and setting up
- f) Maintenance of rented equipment
- g) Instructions to the client or client's caregiver about the safe and proper use of the equipment and supplies

The equipment, supplies, and services for parenteral nutrition, home infusion therapy, oxygen, and respiratory care are reimbursed using the CMS DMEPOS Fee Schedule less a specified percentage. In April 2012, this specific percentage reduction was established at 3.5 percent as a result of a negotiated agreement with providers. For those items and services that are not listed on CMS DMEPOS Fee Schedule, the agency uses flat fee (based upon market value, other state's fees, budget impacts, etc.) or by-report methodology (based on a percentage of billed charges).

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of these services and supplies. 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.)

IX. Other Noninstitutional Services (cont.)

- B. The Medicaid agency makes payment for transportation to and from medically necessary services covered by a client's medical assistance program as specifically listed below.
  - 1. Ambulance services for emergency situations are paid as an optional medical service through direct vendor payments based on fee-for-service.
  - 2. All non-emergency transportation services, to assure clients have access to and from covered services, are provided using either administrative matched dollars or medical match dollars in accordance with Section 42 CFR 431.53 and Attachment 3.1-C.
  - 3. Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of transportation services. The agency's fee schedule rate was set as of July 1, 2019, and is effective for 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

## 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.)

## 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 July 1, 2019, 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

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.)

## IX. Other Noninstitutional Services (cont.)

## I. Private Duty Nursing Services

Private duty nursing services consist of four or more hours of continuous skilled nursing services provided in the home to eligible clients who are 17 years of age or younger with complex medical needs that cannot be managed within the scope of intermittent home health services. The agency will authorize private duty nursing services up to a maximum of 16 hours per day, restricted to the least costly, equally effective amount of care. Nursing rates for services provided in the home setting are flat rates and based on comparable nursing rates.

Rate changes made through the Vendor Rate Increase (VRI) may be made only through the legislative process. Selected rate changes may also be adjusted through a special appropriation directed by the Washington State Legislature. The agency may set rates outside of the legislative process if the agency determines such actions are necessary to maintain access to critical services. The Washington State Legislature approved a \$10.00 per hour rate increase for skilled nursing services provided in a home setting, effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2016.

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of these services. The fee schedule is effective for services provided on and after July 1, 2019. See 4.19-B, I, General, #G for the agency's website where the fee schedules are published.

## J. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and services for Individuals with speech, hearing and language disorders

The agency does not pay separately for therapy services that are included as part of payment for other treatments or programs.

The Medicaid Agency pays the lesser of the usual and customary charge or a fee based on a Medicaid Agency fee schedule for these services. Maximum allowable fees are developed using the Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) methodology. Rates are established and updated using the RBRVS methodology as adopted in the Medicare Fee Schedule Data Base (MFSDB). In this methodology, under Washington Administrative Code, chapter 182-531, the State uses CMS-established relative value units (RVU) multiplied by the Geographic Practice Cost Indices (GPCI) and the conversion factors, both of which are specific to Washington. Current conversion factors and descriptions are found in Supplement 3 to Attachment 4.19-B.

## 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.)

## X. All Other Practitioners

1. "All other practitioners" refers to other practitioners as described in section 6.d of Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B.
2. The agency pays the lesser of the usual and customary charge, or a fee based on an agency fee schedule.
3. 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).
4. 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 July 1, 2019, 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.

5. Collaborative care services are delivered under the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM). Payment rates for CoCM are based on the 2016 Medicare rates for Integrated Behavioral Health Services and are effective for dates of service on and after July 4, 2018.

Under CoCM, a medical care provider bills for the services provided by the collaborative care team. Only state-licensed physicians and state-licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners are eligible to be a medical care billing provider.

6. Community Assistance Referral and Education Services (CARES) programs include Treat and Refer services which are provided when clients' medical needs do not require ambulance transport to an emergency department. The rate was set as of July 1, 2019, 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 rates 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.)

XV. Personal Care Services (cont)

B. Service Rates

The agency's rates were set as of July 1, 2019, and are effective for dates of service on and after that date.

Effective Jan. 1, 2008, the standard hourly rate for individual-provided personal care is based on comparable service units and is determined by the State legislature, based on negotiations between the Governor's Office and the union representing the workers. The rate for personal care services provided by individual providers consists of wages, industrial insurance, paid time off, mileage reimbursement, comprehensive medical, training, seniority pay, training based differentials, and other such benefits needed to ensure a stable, high performing workforce. The agreed-upon negotiated rates schedule is used for all bargaining members.

The rate for personal care services provided by agencies is based on an hourly unit. The agency rate determination corresponds to the rate for individual providers with an additional amount for employer functions performed by the agency.

The rate for personal care provided in assisted living facilities is based on a per day unit. Each participant is assigned to a classification group based on the State's assessment of their personal care needs. The daily rate varies depending on the individual's classification group. The rates are based on components for provider staff, operations, and capital costs. The rate paid to residential providers does not include room and board.

The rate for personal care provided in an adult family home is based on a per day unit and is determined by the State legislature, based on negotiations between the Governor's Office and the union representing Adult Family Homes.