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State/Territory Name: Colorado

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 22-0012

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



May 18, 2022

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

Re: Colorado State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0012

Dear Ms. Bimestefer:

We have reviewed the proposed amendment to add section 7.4 Medicaid Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 National Emergency to your Medicaid state plan, as submitted under transmittal number (TN) 22-0012. This amendment proposes to implement temporary policies, which are different from those policies and procedures otherwise applied under your Medicaid state plan, during the period of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof).

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to ensure that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals enrolled in the respective programs and to ensure that health care providers that furnish such items and services in good faith, but are unable to comply with one or more of such requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may be reimbursed for such items and services and exempted from sanctions for such noncompliance, absent any determination of fraud or abuse. This authority took effect as of 6PM Eastern Standard Time on March 15, 2020, with a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020. The emergency period will terminate, and this state plan provision will no longer be in effect, upon termination of the public health emergency, including any extensions.

The State of Colorado requested a waiver of public notice requirements applicable to the SPA submission process. Pursuant to section 1135(b)(1)(C) of the Act, CMS is waiving public notice requirements applicable to the SPA submission process. Public notice for SPAs is required under 42 C.F.R. §447.205 for changes in statewide methods and standards for setting Medicaid payment rates, 42 C.F.R. §447.57 for changes to premiums and cost sharing, and 42 C.F.R. §440.386 for

changes to Alternative Benefit Plans (ABPs). Pursuant to section 1135(b)(1)(C) of the Act, CMS is approving the state's request to waive these notice requirements otherwise applicable to SPA submissions.

The State of Colorado also requested a waiver to modify the tribal consultation timeline applicable to this SPA submission process. Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the Act, CMS is also allowing states to modify the timeframes associated with tribal consultation required under section 1902(a)(73) of the Act, including shortening the number of days before submission or conducting consultation after submission of the SPA.

These waivers or modifications of the requirements related to public notice and tribal consultation apply only with respect to SPAs that meet the following criteria: (1) the SPA provides or increases beneficiary access to items and services related to COVID-19 (such as by waiving or eliminating cost sharing, increasing payment rates or amending ABPs to add services or providers); (2) the SPA does not restrict or limit payment or services or otherwise burden beneficiaries and providers; and (3) the SPA is temporary, with a specified sunset date that is not later than the last day of the declared COVID-19 public health emergency (or any extension thereof). We nonetheless encourage states to make all relevant information about the SPA available to the public so they are aware of the changes.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to the statutory requirements at section 1902(a) of the Act and implementing regulations. This letter is to inform you that Colorado's Medicaid SPA Transmittal Number 22-0012 is approved effective March 1, 2022. This SPA is in addition to Disaster Relief SPAs approved on April 21, 2020, May 6, 2020, May 20, 2020, October 1, 2020, April 15, 2021, April 20, 2021, May 28, 2021, July 21, 2021, August 11, 2021, October 1, 2021, October 14, 2021, and December 15, 2021.

Enclosed is a copy of the CMS-179 summary form and the approved state plan pages.

Please contact Curtis Volesky at 303-844-7033 or by email at Curtis.volesky@cms.hhs.gov if you have any questions about this approval. We appreciate the efforts of you and your staff in responding to the needs of the residents of the State of Colorado and the health care community.

Sincerely,

Alissa M.
Deboy -S

Digitally signed by Alissa
M. Deboy -S
Date: 2022.05.18
07:53:46 -04'00'

Alissa Mooney DeBoy
On Behalf of Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Enclosures

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

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER <u>2 2</u> — <u>0 0 1 2</u>	2. STATE <u>CO</u>
3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT <input checked="" type="radio"/> XIX <input type="radio"/> XXI	

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE March 1, 2022
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5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION Social Security Act, Title XIX and Section 1135	6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars) a. FFY <u>2022</u> \$ <u>7,822,491</u> b. FFY <u>2023</u> \$ <u>0</u>
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7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT Section 7 -- General Provisions -- Item 7.4 -- Medicaid Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 National Emergency, pgs 1-2 and 10 of 19	8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable) Section 7 -- General Provisions -- Item 7.4 -- Medicaid Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 National Emergency, pgs 1-2, and 10 of 19 (TN# 21-0043)
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9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT
Requests waivers under SSA Section 1135 concerning tribal consultation and public notice requirements. This SPA will increase COVID vaccine booster reimbursement to \$61.77, effective March 1, 2022.

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 14 July 2021

11. S  OFFICIAL	15. RETURN TO Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 1570 Grant Street Denver, CO 80203-1818 Attn: Amy Winterfeld
12. T Tracy Johnson	
13. TITLE Medicaid Director	
14. DATE SUBMITTED March 9, 2022	

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED March 9, 2022	17. DATE APPROVED May 18, 2022
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PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL March 1, 2022	19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL Alissa M. Deboy -S <small>Digitally signed by Alissa M. Deboy -S Date: 2022.05.18 07:54:40 -04'00'</small>
20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL Alissa Mooney DeBoy	21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL On Behalf of Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director, CMCS

22. REMARKS
State approved change to box 8 to remove incorrect superseded TN, and box 9 to remove submission date exception.

Section 7 – General Provisions**7.4. Medicaid Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 National Emergency**

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to ensure that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals enrolled in the respective programs and to ensure that health care providers that furnish such items and services in good faith, but are unable to comply with one or more of such requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may be reimbursed for such items and services and exempted from sanctions for such noncompliance, absent any determination of fraud or abuse. This authority took effect as of 6PM Eastern Standard Time on March 15, 2020, with a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020. The emergency period will terminate, and waivers will no longer be available, upon termination of the public health emergency, including any extensions.

The State Medicaid agency (agency) seeks to implement the policies and procedures described below, which are different than the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan, during the period of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), or for any shorter period described below:

Describe shorter period here. The changes identified below are implemented for the duration of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), unless a shorter period has been identified elsewhere in the below amendment for specific items.

NOTE: States may not elect a period longer than the Presidential or Secretarial emergency declaration (or any renewal thereof). States may not propose changes on this template that restrict or limit payment, services, or eligibility, or otherwise burden beneficiaries and providers.

Request for Waivers under Section 1135

 X The agency seeks the following under section 1135(b)(1)(C) and/or section 1135(b)(5) of the Act:

- a. SPA submission requirements – the agency requests modification of the requirement to submit the SPA by March 31, 2020, to obtain a SPA effective date during the first calendar quarter of 2020, pursuant to 42 CFR 430.20.
- b. X Public notice requirements – the agency requests waiver of public notice requirements that would otherwise be applicable to this SPA submission. These requirements may include those specified in 42 CFR 440.386 (Alternative Benefit Plans), 42 CFR 447.57(c) (premiums and cost sharing), and 42 CFR 447.205 (public notice of changes in statewide methods and standards for setting payment rates).

- c. Tribal consultation requirements – the agency requests modification of tribal consultation timelines specified in the Colorado Medicaid state plan, as described below:

Please describe the modifications to the timeline.
 The Department is requesting flexibility in modifying its tribal consultation timeframe, by conducting consultation within ninety (90) days after submission of the SPA.

Section A – Eligibility

- 1. The agency furnishes medical assistance to the following optional groups of individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) or 1902(a)(10)(c) of the Act. This may include the new optional group described at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XXIII) and 1902(ss) of the Act providing coverage for uninsured individuals.

Include name of the optional eligibility group and applicable income and resource standard.
 The state elects to cover all uninsured individuals as defined under 1902(ss) of the Act pursuant to Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XXIII) of the Act effective March 18, 2020.

- 2. _____ The agency furnishes medical assistance to the following populations of individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XX) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.218:

- a. _____ All individuals who are described in section 1905(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XX)

Income standard: _____

-or-

- b. _____ Individuals described in the following categorical populations in section 1905(a) of the Act:

Income standard: _____

- 3. _____ The agency applies less restrictive financial methodologies to individuals excepted from financial methodologies based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) as follows.

Less restrictive income methodologies:

d.

Describe telehealth payment variation.

e. Include payment for ancillary costs associated with the delivery of covered services via telehealth, (if applicable), as follows:

- i. Ancillary cost associated with the originating site for telehealth is incorporated into fee-for-service rates.
- ii. Ancillary cost associated with the originating site for telehealth is separately reimbursed as an administrative cost by the state when a Medicaid service is delivered.

Other:

4. Other payment changes:

Attachment 4.19, Payment for Services, 66(b), 4.19(m) Medicaid Reimbursement for the Administration of Vaccines under the Pediatric Immunization Program (TN# 16-0007), requires that pediatric immunizations be provided specifically through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, by providers enrolled as VFC providers. The Department authorizes all providers licensed to administer vaccines to administer pediatric immunizations if the vaccine product used was provided free of cost by the federal government, outside of the VFC program. Authorization will end upon termination of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachment 4.19, Payment for Services, 66(b), 4.19(m) Medicaid Reimbursement for the Administration of Vaccines under the Pediatric Immunization Program (TN#16-0007) also sets a reimbursement rate of \$18.93 per vaccine administration, plus or minus any approved physician rate adjustments, with the exception of those services and providers subject to the minimum payments described at 42 CFR 447.405. Effective September 1, 2021, the Department authorizes a payment of \$61.77 for administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, for each of the initial doses and for subsequent boosters, and an additional \$35.00 for vaccine administration within the member's home or residence.

The Department will issue a one-time per member per month COVID-19 increased workload payment for intellectual and developmental disabilities targeted case management payment for the month of June 2021. The Department identified the services listed below to develop a rate of \$78.00 per adult waiver member and \$64.47 per children's waiver member. This rate takes into account the existing per member per month rate the case management agency received for the member and is a payment for the additional workload that is above and beyond the per member per month scope of work. Members are active on 1915c Medicaid waiver programs but the tasks below are reflective of state plan targeted case management tasks.

- Tracking and operationalizing multiple policy changes, including more than fifty operational memos, implemented by the Department related to COVID.
- Obtaining member paperwork that would have previously been completed in person. Case managers are now sending paperwork for physical and digital signatures and tracking the receipt of paperwork. This requires multiple attempts to obtain needed signatures and the member must be tracked for potential closure at the end of the PHE