

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



August 19, 2022

Ana P. Novais, MA, Acting Secretary  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
3 West Road, Virks Building  
Cranston, RI 02920

Re: Rhode Island State Plan Amendment (SPA) 22-0004

Dear Acting Secretary Novais:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed the proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 22-0004. The purpose of this is to comply with requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act and provide assurance of coverage of COVID-19 vaccine administration, testing, and treatment.

Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the Social Security Act (Act), for the period of the public health emergency, CMS is modifying the requirement at 42 C.F.R. §430.20 that the state submit SPAs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency by the final day of the quarter, to obtain a SPA effective date during the quarter, enabling SPAs submitted after the last day of the quarter to have an effective date in a previous quarter, but no earlier than the effective date of the public health emergency.

The State of Rhode Island requested a waiver to modify the public notice requirements applicable to the SPA submission process. Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the Act, CMS is modifying 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)(5) of the Act, CMS is approving the state's request to modify these notice requirements otherwise applicable to SPA submissions.

The State of Rhode Island 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.


CMS conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Act and implementing regulations. This letter is to inform you that Rhode Island's Medicaid SPA Transmittal Number 22-0004 is approved effective March 11, 2021.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Butterworth at (857) 338-0554 or via email at [Joyce.Butterworth@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Joyce.Butterworth@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Alissa M.  
Deboy -S

 Digitally signed by Alissa  
M. Deboy -S  
Date: 2022.08.19  
07 52:22 -04'00'

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

Enclosures

cc: Kristin Sousa, Interim Medicaid Program Director  
Kathryn Thomas, Senior Economic and Policy Analyst

**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 0 4</u>	2. STATE <u>RI</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 <u>3/11/2021</u>
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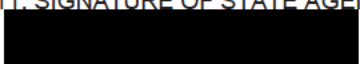
5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION <u>American Rescue Plan Section 9811; Title XIX of the Social Security Act</u>	6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars) a. FFY <u>2021</u> \$ <u>8,700,000</u> b. FFY <u>2022</u> \$ <u>25,500,000</u>
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7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT <u>Attachment 7.7-A Pg 1</u> <u>Attachment 7.7-A Pg 2</u> <u>Attachment 7.7-A Pg 3</u>  <u>Attachment 7.7c, Pg. 1-3</u>  <u>Attachment 7.7-B Pg 1</u> <u>Attachment 7.7-B Pg 2</u> <u>Attachment 7.7-B Pg 3</u>	8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable) <u>NEW</u> <u>NEW</u> <u>NEW</u>  <u>NEW</u> <u>NEW</u>
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9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT  
Coverage of COVID Vaccine administration, testing, treatment, and stand alone vaccine counseling

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)

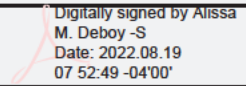
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT  OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:  
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED  
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL 	15. RETURN TO EOHHS 3 West Rd. Virks Building Cranston, RI 02920
12. TYPED NAME <u>Ana Novais</u>	
13. TITLE <u>Acting Secretary</u>	
14. DATE SUBMITTED <u>6/1/22</u>	

**FOR CMS USE ONLY**

16. DATE RECEIVED <u>June 1, 2022</u>	17. DATE APPROVED <u>August 19, 2022</u>
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**PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED**

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL <u>March 11, 2021</u>	19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL <u>Alissa M. Deboy -S</u> 
20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL <u>Alissa Mooney DeBoy</u>	21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL <u>On Behalf of Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services</u>

22. REMARKS  
Pen and ink change to Box 5 adding federal regulation; change to Box 7 clarifying page numbering that was cut off in transmission.

**Vaccine and Vaccine Administration at Section 1905(a)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act**

During the period starting March 11, 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

**Coverage**

  X   The state assures coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and administration of the vaccines.<sup>1</sup>

  X   The state assures that such coverage:

1. Is provided to all eligibility groups covered by the state, including the optional Individuals Eligible for Family Planning Services, Individuals with Tuberculosis, and COVID-19 groups if applicable, with the exception of the Medicare Savings Program groups and the COBRA Continuation Coverage group for which medical assistance consists only of payment of premiums; and
2. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(H) and section 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

  X   Applies to the state’s approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(A) of the Act.

  X   The state provides coverage for any medically necessary COVID-19 vaccine counseling for children under the age of 21 pursuant to §§1902(a)(11), 1902(a)(43), and 1905(hh) of the Act.

  X   The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration, with respect to the providers that are considered qualified to prescribe, dispense, administer, deliver and/or distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

Additional Information (Optional):

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<sup>1</sup> The vaccine will be claimed under this benefit once the federal government discontinues purchasing the vaccine.

**Reimbursement**

The state assures that the state plan has established rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines for all qualified providers pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

List Medicaid state plan references to payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 vaccines and their administration for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

Disaster Relief SPA 21-0001

The state is establishing rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines are consistent with Medicare rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines, including any future Medicare updates at the:

Medicare national average, OR

Associated geographically adjusted rate.

The state is establishing a state specific fee schedule for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rate is as follows and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location :

The state's fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.

The below listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules and payment to these providers for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines are described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

The payment methodologies for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines for providers listed above are described below:

The state is establishing rates for any medically necessary COVID-19 vaccine counseling for children under the age of 21 pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E), 1905(r)(1)(B)(v) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rate is as follows and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location:

The State's fee schedule is published here: [Fee Schedule](#). The rate is: \$23.53/15 min

***PRA Disclosure Statement*** Under the Privacy Act of 1974 any personally identifying information obtained will be kept private to the extent of the law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0938-1148 (CMS-10398 # 75). Public burden for all of the collection of information requirements under this control number is estimated to take up to 1 hour per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

**COVID-19 Testing at section 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act**

During the period starting March 11, 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

**Coverage**

The state assures coverage of COVID-19 testing consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.

The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes all types of FDA authorized COVID-19 tests;
2. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
3. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group if applicable; and
4. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

Please describe any limits on amount, duration or scope of COVID-19 testing consistent with 42 CFR 440.230(b).

Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

**Reimbursement**

The state assures that it has established state plan rates for COVID-19 testing consistent with the CDC definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.

List references to Medicaid state plan payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 testing for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

The state is establishing rates for COVID-19 testing pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rates for COVID-19 testing are consistent with Medicare rates for testing, including any future Medicare updates at the:

Medicare national average, OR  
 Associated geographically adjusted rate.

This also applies to home test kits for COVID-19, which are reimbursed at the Medicare national average for such test kits.

The state is establishing a state specific fee schedule for COVID-19 testing pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rate is as follows and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location:

The state's fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.



\_\_\_\_ The below listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules and payment to these providers for COVID-19 testing is described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

*Additional Information (Optional):*

\_\_\_\_ The payment methodologies for COVID-19 testing for providers listed above are described below:

***PRA Disclosure Statement*** Under the Privacy Act of 1974 any personally identifying information obtained will be kept private to the extent of the law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0938-1148 (CMS-10398 # 75). Public burden for all of the collection of information requirements under this control number is estimated to take up to 1 hour per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

**COVID-19 Treatment at section 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act**

During the period starting March 11, 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

**Coverage for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID**

The states assures coverage of COVID-19 treatment, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies).

The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes any non-pharmacological item or service described in section 1905(a) of the Act, that is medically necessary for treatment of COVID-19;
2. Includes any drug or biological that is approved (or licensed) by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) or authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to treat or prevent COVID-19, consistent with the applicable authorizations;
3. Is provided without amount, duration or scope limitations that would otherwise apply when covered for purposes other than treatment or prevention of COVID-19;
4. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
5. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group, if applicable; and
6. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

**Coverage for a Condition that May Seriously Complicate the Treatment of COVID**

X  The state assures coverage of treatment for a condition that may seriously complicate the treatment of COVID-19 during the period when a beneficiary is diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19.

X  The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes items and services, including drugs, that were covered by the state as of March 11, 2021;
2. Is provided without amount, duration or scope limitations that would otherwise apply when covered for other purposes;
3. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
4. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group, if applicable; and
5. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

X  Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

X  The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

**Reimbursement**

X  The state assures that it has established state plan rates for COVID-19 treatment, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies).

List references to Medicaid state plan payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 treatment for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

State Plan Sections 4.19-A and 4.19B. For rates, see [Fee for Service Fee Schedule](#).

The state is establishing rates or fee schedule for COVID-19 treatment, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies) pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

For monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19, see [Fee for Service Fee Schedule](#).

The state's rates or fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.

The below listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules and payment to these providers for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines are described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

Additional Information (Optional):

**PRA Disclosure Statement** Under the Privacy Act of 1974 any personally identifying information obtained will be kept private to the extent of the law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0938-1148 (CMS-10398 # 75). Public burden for all of the collection of information requirements under this control number is estimated to take up to 1 hour per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.