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State/Territory Name: Montana

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 21-0024

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS 179 Form/Summary Form (with 179-like data)
- 3) Approved SPA Pages



December 1, 2021

Marie Matthews, Medicaid & CHIP Director
Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services
P.O. Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604

Re: Montana State Plan Amendment (SPA) MT-21-0024

Dear Ms. Matthews:

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) MT-21-0024. 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.

Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the 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 Montana also 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 Montana 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 SPA submission timelines, 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 Montana's Medicaid SPA Transmittal Number MT-21-0024 is approved effective January 1, 2021. This SPA is in addition to all other approved Disaster Relief SPAs in the State of Montana, and does not supersede anything approved in those SPAs.

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

Please contact Barbara B. Prehmus at 303-844-7472 or by email at Barbara.prehmus@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 Montana and the health care community.

Sincerely,
Alissa M.
Deboy -S

Digitally signed by Alissa
M. Deboy -S
Date: 2021.12.01
08:20:16 -05'00'

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

Enclosures

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:

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. X 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

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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 Montana Medicaid state plan, as described below:

DPHHS will consult with I/T/U’s by standard mail or email concurrent or following the submission of an amendment or waiver to CMS. DPHHS will be available to host meetings with I/T/U’s to discuss any amendment or waiver following its submission.

“I/T/U’s” mean Tribal Presidents or Tribal Chairmen from Federally recognized Tribes, the Director of the Billings Area Indian Health Service, Urban Indian Organizations, and Tribal Health Departments.

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.

- 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:

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Less restrictive resource methodologies:

- 4. ____ The agency considers individuals who are evacuated from the state, who leave the state for medical reasons related to the disaster or public health emergency, or who are otherwise absent from the state due to the disaster or public health emergency and who intend to return to the state, to continue to be residents of the state under 42 CFR 435.403(j)(3).
- 5. ____ The agency provides Medicaid coverage to the following individuals living in the state, who are non-residents:

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- 6. ____ The agency provides for an extension of the reasonable opportunity period for non-citizens declaring to be in a satisfactory immigration status, if the non-citizen is making a good faith effort to resolve any inconsistencies or obtain any necessary documentation, or the agency is unable to complete the verification process within the 90-day reasonable opportunity period due to the disaster or public health emergency.

Section B – Enrollment

- 1. ____ The agency elects to allow hospitals to make presumptive eligibility determinations for the following additional state plan populations, or for populations in an approved section 1115 demonstration, in accordance with section 1902(a)(47)(B) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.1110, provided that the agency has determined that the hospital is capable of making such determinations.

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- 2. ____ The agency designates itself as a qualified entity for purposes of making presumptive eligibility determinations described below in accordance with sections 1920, 1920A, 1920B, and 1920C of the Act and 42 CFR Part 435 Subpart L.

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- 3. ____ The agency designates the following entities as qualified entities for purposes of making presumptive eligibility determinations or adds additional populations as described below in accordance with sections 1920, 1920A, 1920B, and 1920C of the Act and 42 CFR Part 435 Subpart L. Indicate if any designated entities are permitted to make presumptive eligibility determinations only for specified populations.

Please describe the designated entities or additional populations and any limitations related to the specified populations or number of allowable PE periods.

- 4. ___ The agency adopts a total of ___ months (not to exceed 12 months) continuous eligibility for children under age enter age ___ (not to exceed age 19) regardless of changes in circumstances in accordance with section 1902(e)(12) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.926.
- 5. ___ The agency conducts redeterminations of eligibility for individuals excepted from MAGI-based financial methodologies under 42 CFR 435.603(j) once every ___ months (not to exceed 12 months) in accordance with 42 CFR 435.916(b).
- 6. ___ The agency uses the following simplified application(s) to support enrollment in affected areas or for affected individuals (a copy of the simplified application(s) has been submitted to CMS).
 - a. ___ The agency uses a simplified paper application.
 - b. ___ The agency uses a simplified online application.
 - c. ___ The simplified paper or online application is made available for use in call-centers or other telephone applications in affected areas.

Section C – Premiums and Cost Sharing

- 1. ___ The agency suspends deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and other cost sharing charges as follows:

- 2. ___ The agency suspends enrollment fees, premiums and similar charges for:
 - a. ___ All beneficiaries
 - b. ___ The following eligibility groups or categorical populations:

N/A

- 3. ___ The agency allows waiver of payment of the enrollment fee, premiums and similar charges for undue hardship.

N/A

Section D – Benefits*Benefits:*

1. x The agency adds the following optional benefits in its state plan (include service descriptions, provider qualifications, and limitations on amount, duration or scope of the benefit): Benefit category 1905(a)(13)(C) for rehabilitative services

Montana proposes to add an intensive outpatient therapy (IOP) benefit effective January 1, 2021 effective through the end of the COVID 19 public health emergency.

All services provided under the EPSDT Rehabilitation Benefit are available to all children and youth under 21 in the home, school, or community. They may be provided by any willing provider who meets the necessary qualifications. Provider qualifications are the same for services provided in school, home, and community settings. Licensed agencies provide mental health EPSDT rehabilitative services. The State of Montana licenses these agencies to ensure that minimum qualifications and standards are met.

IOP services provide weekly structured intensive mental health care to youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED) while allowing youth to safely remain in school, in the home, and in their community. This is an intensive service. Providers *must provide 6 hours of core services to the youth per week to be eligible for this service. When weekly requirements are not met the provider may unbundle and bill in accordance with Medicaid Youth Mental Health Fee Schedule and Montana Department of Public Health RBRVS Fee Schedule.* Youth must receive all medically necessary services indicated and each service must be documented in the individualized treatment plan (ITP).

To be eligible for services youth must:

- (1) have a valid SED.
- (2) have documented need for six or more hours of structured programming per week.
- (3) require three or more core services per week, core services include:
 - (a) individual psychotherapy: services are provided by a licensed or supervised in-training psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist.
 - (b) group psychotherapy: services are provided by a licensed or supervised in-training psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist.
 - (c) family psychotherapy: Therapy and/or treatment that involves the participation of a family member/collateral and/or other non-Medicaid eligible individual(s) is for the direct benefit of the member, in accordance with the member's needs and treatment goals identified in the member's treatment plan and for assisting the member's recovery. The general expectation is that the member would be present for the service with the non-member; however, there may be some treatment session(s) where the practitioner's judgment is not to include the member. Services are provided by a licensed or supervised in-training psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist.
 - (d) community-based psychiatric rehabilitation and support (CBPRS): are one-to-one, intensive behavior management and stabilization for a specified period of time in which the problem or issue impeding recovery or full functioning is defined and treated. The purpose of CBPRS services is to "reduce disability" and "restore function." CBPRS are provided by a behavioral aide. Through CBPRS, a behavioral aide supports the youth by augmenting life, behavioral, and social skills training needed to reach their identified treatment goals and function

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in normal life roles in the community. During skill training, the behavioral aide clearly describes the skill and expectations of youth's behavior, models the skill and engages the youth in practice of the skill, and provides feedback on skill performance. The ability to acquire and apply these skills helps prevent relapse and strengthens goal attainment. These aides may consult with family members, teachers or other key individuals that are part of a youth's treatment team in order to determine how to help the youth be more successful in meeting treatment goals.

(e) crisis services: services include pre-crisis planning using a functional assessment for behaviors and/or emotions experienced by the youth that have led to crisis in the past. Crisis services also include a range of 24-hour response, from telephonic to face-to-face, depending on the needs of the youth and family. Crisis services are provided by a behavioral aide and/or licensed or supervised in-training psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist.

(f) care coordination: a service designed to facilitate advocacy and collaboration in relation to the treatment of the youth as a means to reach treatment goals and increase functioning. Care coordination includes activities such as treatment plan meetings, IEP meetings, referrals, advocacy with school staff and phone calls. Care Coordination is provided by a behavioral aide and/or a licensed or supervised in-training psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or marriage and family therapist.

Services are provided for up to eight weeks per youth. Additional services may be authorized if determined medically necessary by the state.

2. ___ The agency makes the following adjustments to benefits currently covered in the state plan:

3. X The agency assures that newly added benefits or adjustments to benefits comply with all applicable statutory requirements, including the statewide requirements found at 1902(a)(1), comparability requirements found at 1902(a)(10)(B), and free choice of provider requirements found at 1902(a)(23).
4. X Application to Alternative Benefit Plans (ABP). The state adheres to all ABP provisions in 42 CFR Part 440, Subpart C. This section only applies to states that have an approved ABP(s).
- a. X The agency assures that these newly added and/or adjusted benefits will be made available to individuals receiving services under ABPs.
- b. ___ Individuals receiving services under ABPs will not receive these newly added and/or adjusted benefits, or will only receive the following subset:

Please describe.

Telehealth:

- 5. The agency utilizes telehealth in the following manner, which may be different than outlined in the state’s approved state plan:

Drug Benefit:

- 6. The agency makes the following adjustments to the day supply or quantity limit for covered outpatient drugs. The agency should only make this modification if its current state plan pages have limits on the amount of medication dispensed.

- 7. Prior authorization for medications is expanded by automatic renewal without clinical review, or time/quantity extensions.

- 8. The agency makes the following payment adjustment to the professional dispensing fee when additional costs are incurred by the providers for delivery. States will need to supply documentation to justify the additional fees.

Please describe the manner in which professional dispensing fees are adjusted.

- 9. The agency makes exceptions to their published Preferred Drug List if drug shortages occur. This would include options for covering a brand name drug product that is a multi-source drug if a generic drug option is not available.

Section E – Payments

Optional benefits described in Section D:

- 1. Newly added benefits described in Section D are paid using the following methodology:

- a. Published fee schedules –

Effective date (enter date of change): 1/1/2021

Location (list published location): <https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/59>

- b. Other:

The department will use fee for service methodology.

Reimbursement:
Bundled all-inclusive daily rate, \$98.55 per day. The bundled all-inclusive daily rate includes the following services:

- (a) individual psychotherapy*
- (b) group psychotherapy*
- (c) family psychotherapy*
- (d) community-based psychiatric rehabilitation and support (CBPRS)*
- (e) crisis services*
- (f) care coordination*

The Mental Health Center will bill for the bundled services. Any provider delivering services through a bundle will be paid through that bundle’s payment rate and cannot bill separately. Providers must provide 6 hours of core services to the youth per week to be eligible to bill the bundled rate. It is not required that each member receive every service listed but all medically necessary services must be provided and documented. A billable day must be a minimum of 45 minutes of service, and care coordination services can account for a maximum of one hour per week. Medicaid providers delivering separate services outside of the bundle may bill for those services in accordance with Montana’s Medicaid billing procedures.

The all-inclusive bundled daily rate does not include costs related to room and board or other unallowable facility costs if the rate is paid in residential settings.

A service day is a minimum of 45 total minutes of core service provided to the youth by the IOP provider(s).

Increases to state plan payment methodologies:

- 2. _____ The agency increases payment rates for the following services:

- a. _____ Payment increases are targeted based on the following criteria:

Please describe criteria.

- b. Payments are increased through:

- i. _____ A supplemental payment or add-on within applicable upper payment limits:

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- ii. ___ An increase to rates as described below.

Rates are increased:

___ Uniformly by the following percentage: _____

___ Through a modification to published fee schedules –

Effective date (enter date of change): _____

Location (list published location): _____

___ Up to the Medicare payments for equivalent services.

___ By the following factors:

Please describe.

Payment for services delivered via telehealth:

- 3. ___ For the duration of the emergency, the state authorizes payments for telehealth services that:

- a. ___ Are not otherwise paid under the Medicaid state plan;
- b. ___ Differ from payments for the same services when provided face to face;
- c. ___ Differ from current state plan provisions governing reimbursement for telehealth;

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- d. ___ 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:

Please describe.

Section F – Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income

- 1. _____ The state elects to modify the basic personal needs allowance for institutionalized individuals. The basic personal needs allowance is equal to one of the following amounts:
 - a. _____ The individual’s total income
 - b. _____ 300 percent of the SSI federal benefit rate
 - c. _____ Other reasonable amount: _____
- 2. _____ The state elects a new variance to the basic personal needs allowance. (Note: Election of this option is not dependent on a state electing the option described the option in F.1. above.)

The state protects amounts exceeding the basic personal needs allowance for individuals who have the following greater personal needs:

Please describe the group or groups of individuals with greater needs and the amount(s) protected for each group or groups.

Section G – Other Policies and Procedures Differing from Approved Medicaid State Plan /Additional Information

PRA Disclosure Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1148 (Expires 03/31/2021). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 1 to 2 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. Your response is required to receive a waiver under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. All responses are public and will be made available on the CMS web site. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05,

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Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850. ***CMS Disclosure*** Please do not send applications, claims, payments, medical records or any documents containing sensitive information to the PRA Reports Clearance Office. Please note that any correspondence not pertaining to the information collection burden approved under the associated OMB control number listed on this form will not be reviewed, forwarded, or retained. If you have questions or concerns regarding where to submit your documents, please contact the Centers for Medicaid & CHIP Services at 410-786-3870.

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