

NOTICE OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 21-AJ: Updates to Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the Medicaid Coverage Group for Low-Income Adults Regarding Removal of Requirement for Providers to Obtain Registration Before Performing Routine Outpatient Behavioral Health Services

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which will amend the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) at Attachment 3.1-L of the Medicaid State Plan.

The ABP is the benefit package that, effective January 1, 2014, is provided to the Medicaid low-income adult population under section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act (also known as HUSKY D). Pursuant to section 2001 of the Affordable Care Act, effective January 1, 2014, Connecticut expanded Medicaid eligibility to low-income adults with incomes up to and including 133% of the federal poverty level. The expanded coverage group is referred to as Medicaid Coverage for the Lowest-Income Populations.

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective July 1, 2021, SPA 21-AJ will amend the ABP (Attachment 3.1-L of the Medicaid State Plan) in order to remove references to the requirement for providers in specified categories (outpatient hospital services, behavioral health clinic services, physician services, and services of behavioral health clinicians in independent practice, specifically psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marital and family therapists, and licensed alcohol and drug counselors) to obtain registration before performing routine outpatient behavioral health services. Prior authorization has also been removed for electroconvulsive therapy. The purpose of this SPA is to remove administrative barriers to enabling Medicaid members to have full access to routine outpatient behavioral health services and is also designed to ensure that the ABP remains in compliance with all applicable requirements, including 42 C.F.R. §§ 440.345(c) and 440.395.

This SPA will not make any other changes to the ABP than as described above, which will continue to reflect the same coverage in the ABP for HUSKY D Medicaid members as in the underlying Medicaid State Plan. Accordingly, the ABP will continue to provide full access to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services to beneficiaries under age twenty-one. This includes informing them that EPSDT services are available and of the need for age-appropriate immunizations. The ABP also provides or arranges for the provision of screening services for all children and for corrective treatment as determined by child health screenings. These EPSDT services are provided by the DSS fee-for-service provider network. EPSDT clients are also able to receive any additional health care services that are coverable under the Medicaid program and found to be medically necessary to treat,

correct or reduce illnesses and conditions discovered regardless of whether the service is covered in Connecticut's Medicaid State Plan.

Likewise, this SPA will not make any changes to cost sharing for the services provided under the ABP. Connecticut does not currently impose cost sharing on Medicaid beneficiaries. Because there are no Medicaid cost sharing requirements for Connecticut beneficiaries, no exemptions are necessary in order to comply with the cost sharing protections for Native Americans found in section 5006(e) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Fiscal Impact

This SPA will not change annual aggregate expenditures.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

The proposed SPA is posted on the DSS website at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-State-Plan-Amendments>. The SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office, at the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105 (Phone: 860-424-5067). Please reference "SPA 21-AJ: Updates to Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the Medicaid Coverage Group for Low-Income Adults Regarding Removal of Requirement for Providers to Obtain Registration Before Performing Routine Outpatient Behavioral Health Services".

Anyone may send DSS written comments about this SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than September 16, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

**Notice Under the Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure
Receipt of an Application for a Certificate of
Affordable Housing Project Completion
(aka for a Moratorium)
from the Town of Brookfield**

In accordance with C.G.S. 8-30g, the Connecticut Department of Housing is in receipt of a completed application (August 10, 2021) for a Certificate of Affordable Housing Project Completion (a Moratorium of Applicability) from the Town of Brookfield. A notice was previously published in the Connecticut Law Journal, however, additional information was necessary to complete the review. The revised effective date of application receipt is August 10, 2021. As per Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-30g(1)(4)(B), upon publication in the Connecticut Law Journal, a thirty (30) day public comment period will begin on August 17, 2021 and end on September 16, 2021. DOH will accept electronic input/comment on the completed application at CT.HOUSING.PLANS@ct.gov. All input and comments received will be taken into consideration. Any public comments received by DOH pursuant to that prior notice will also be considered. A copy of this completed application is available for viewing electronically at the Department of Housing website (www.ct.gov/doh) or at the Connecticut Department of Housing by appointment. For information please call or e-mail to Laura Watson, Economic and Community Development Agent, at (860) 270-8169 or laura.watson@ct.gov.
