

NOTICE OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

Department of Social Services

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 21-AO: Behavioral Health Provider Rate Increase

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).

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after November 17, 2021, this SPA will amend Attachments 4.19-A and 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan to implement a 4% rate increase for behavioral health providers as set forth below. This SPA will increase all billing codes on the following fee schedules by 4%: autism spectrum disorder, behavioral health clinic (for services provided and billed by freestanding behavioral health clinics and outpatient hospital-operated behavioral health clinics), behavioral health clinician (for services provided and billed by the following categories of practitioners in independent practice: licensed clinical social workers, licensed marital and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, and licensed alcohol and drug counselors), and psychologist fee schedules. This SPA will also increase the daily rate by 4% for each private psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) and chemical maintenance clinic compared to the level currently in effect for such provider immediately prior to the effective date of this SPA.

The purpose of this SPA is to provide rate increases to the behavioral health providers set forth above or who bill using the fee schedules set forth above to enable wage increases for their clinicians who provide those behavioral health services. DSS's intent in providing this increase at this time is to align with the non-Medicaid increase in grants to behavioral health providers being provided separately by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Children and Families. By enabling wage increases, this SPA is also designed to maintain access and quality of these behavioral health services.

Fiscal Impact

Based on the information available at this time, DSS estimates that this SPA will increase annual aggregate expenditures by approximately \$14 million.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

This SPA is posted on the DSS web site at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-State-Plan-Amendments>. The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office or 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: Medical Policy Unit, Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105

(Phone: 860-424-5067). Please reference “SPA 21-AO: Behavioral Health Provider Rate Increase”.

Anyone may send DSS written comments about the SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than December 1, 2021.
