



DHHS – Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment (SPA) Approval

April 27, 2020

Background

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided states the opportunity to submit Disaster Relief State Plan Amendments (SPAs), which give federal authority for Medicaid programs to revise their existing Medicaid State Plans so that they can ensure Medicaid recipients have access to covered health care services and providers have the flexibility and support necessary to meet member needs.

On April 10, 2020, the Office of MaineCare Services submitted a Disaster Relief SPA to CMS in conjunction with the Office for Family Independence. This SPA addresses eligibility, provider reimbursement, and cost sharing. CMS approved Maine's Disaster Relief SPA on Friday, April 24, retroactive to March 1, 2020.

Approval of this SPA gives us the federal authority to operationalize some aspects of our [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Services rule](#), such as waiving copays and enhancing telehealth coverage. It also enables us to provide temporary payment supports to Substance Use Disorder residential treatment providers (Appendix B Private Non-Medical Institutions) and hospitals. The Department is actively exploring additional payment support options for providers of other services. The decision to provide additional payment supports would require the Department to submit one or more additional Disaster Relief SPAs.

Maine's Application

The following provisions were included in the submission of Maine's Disaster Relief SPA:

Eligibility

- Provides coverage for COVID-19 testing and diagnosis for uninsured individuals who are not Medicaid eligible or covered by another federal health program or private insurance.
- Expands the definition of "temporary absence" for Maine residency requirements for individuals who are impacted by the public health emergency and are evacuated, leave for medical reasons, and/or are otherwise absent provided that they intend to return to state.

Premiums and Cost Sharing

- Suspends monthly premiums for all MaineCare programs that require a premium, such as Katie Beckett and MaineCare for Working People with Disabilities*.
- Waives copays for the following:
 - Pharmacy Services
 - Hospital Services
 - Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies

- Home Health Services
- Medical Imaging
- Laboratory Services
- Rural Health Clinics
- Psychology Services
- Mental Health Clinics
- Private Duty Nursing and Personal Care Services

Payments

- Provides a special \$10M supplemental payment to privately owned and operated Acute Care Non-Critical Access hospitals and Critical Access hospitals operating in the State of Maine.
- Increases reimbursement by 23.9% for Private Non-Medical Institutions - Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities**.

Telehealth Services

- Adds new [telehealth billing codes](#) to ensure member access to covered services.

Service Additions

- Provides coverage of COVID-19 testing.

Prescription Drug Benefit

- Allows the state to make exceptions to the published Preferred Drug List (PDL) if drug shortages occur. This would include options for covering a brand name drug if a generic drug option is not available.

**This also applies to CubCare, which was submitted via a separate SPA.*

*** Please note that temporary payment supports for Nursing Facilities, Residential Care Facilities, and other PNMIs were issued under existing state authority to provide an Extraordinary Circumstances Allowance. Appendix D PNMIs received payment support through an increase in the Office for Child and Family Services' Room and Board rates. The Department reserves the right to cease payment of rate increases at any time, with proper provider notification.*