


NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Health Benefits

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
JAY LUDLAM • Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid

SIGNATURE REQUEST MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay Ludlam ^{DS} 

FROM: Ashley Blango, SPA Coordinator

RE: State Plan Amendment

Title XIX, Social Security Act
Transmittal #2024-0024

Purpose

Attached for your review and signature is a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (Independent Practitioner Providers (IPP) Treating Adult Beneficiaries) summarized below, and submitted on May 22, 2024, with a due date of May 29, 2024.

Clearance

This amendment has been reviewed for both accuracy and completeness by:

Ashley Blango, Betty J. Staton, Emma Sandoe, Melanie Bush, Lotta Crabtree, Adam Levinson

Background and Summary of Request

It is recommended that you sign this State Plan Amendment submission per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) protocol as head of the Single State Agency administering the Medicaid program.

This state plan change is to eliminate the age restriction on independent practitioner providers (IPPs) for outpatient specialized therapy (OST) services to increase access to care in private practice settings. IPPs in North Carolina are currently restricted to treating patients under 21 for occupational, physical and speech therapy services. The proposed change aims to align Medicaid with Medicare and other payers, and improve access to care for patients aged 21 and older, impacting a wide range of stakeholders including managed care healthcare organizations, beneficiaries, tribal members, and taxpayers. Additionally, this proposed change may reduce cost per visit when a beneficiary transfers care from facility-based to professional settings and will enhance network adequacy.

The proposed effective date of the SPA is July 01, 2024.

Your approval of this State Plan Amendment is requested. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Ashley Blango at 919-812-6145.

Medical Care/Other Remedial Care

Services provided under this section are provided by individual practitioners who meet individual practitioner certification standards. Each provider must be certified as meeting program standards of the Department of Health and Human Services. The services are available to the categorically needy and medically needy and include the services described herein.

- A. Generally covered state plan services provided to outpatients by qualified health professional service entities to include prevention, diagnostic, therapeutic or palliative items or services when they are medically necessary.
- 1) Diagnostic services includes medical procedures or supplies recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the scope of his practice that enable him to identify the existence, nature or extent of illness, injury or other health deviation.
 - 2) Screening services includes standardized tests performed under medical direction by qualified health care professionals to a designated population to detect the existence of one or more particular diseases.
 - 3) Preventive services includes services provided by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the scope of practice under state law to a) prevent disease, disability and other health conditions or their progression b) prolong life and c) promote physical and mental health and efficiency.
 - 4) Therapeutic services means medical care and clinical services for a patient for the purpose of combating disease, injury or other physical/mental disorders by a physician or other qualified practitioner within the scope of practice under state law.
 - 5) Physical therapy occupational therapy and services for individuals with speech, hearing, and language disorders as defined in 42 CFR 440.110.

TN No. 24-0024

Approval Date

Eff. Date 07/01/2024

Supersedes

TN No. 00-03