



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: Betty J. Staton, SPA Manager

RE: State Plan Amendment

Title XIX, Social Security Act
Transmittal #2024-0019

Purpose

Attached for your review and signature is a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (Co-Payment Exemption: Opioid Antagonists, Nicotine Replacement Therapy, Opioid Use Disorder Medications) summarized below, and submitted on April 4, 2024, with a due date of April 8, 2024.

Clearance

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

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.

Please find attached a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that exempts the following drugs from Medicaid co-payments: opioid antagonists (naloxone/nalmefene), nicotine replacement therapy, and medications used to treat opioid use disorder. These medications currently require a co-payment of \$4 per prescription.

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

Your approval of this State Plan Amendment is requested. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (919) 538-3215.



Medicaid Premiums and Cost Sharing

State Name:

OMB Control Number: 0938-1148

Transmittal Number: NC - 24 - 0019

Cost Sharing Requirements

G1

1916
1916A
42 CFR 447.50 through 447.57 (excluding 447.55)

The state charges cost sharing (deductibles, co-insurance or co-payments) to individuals covered under Medicaid.

Yes

- The state assures that it administers cost sharing in accordance with sections 1916 and 1916A of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 447.50 through 447.57.

General Provisions

- The cost sharing amounts established by the state for services are always less than the amount the agency pays for the service.
- No provider may deny services to an eligible individual on account of the individual's inability to pay cost sharing, except as elected by the state in accordance with 42 CFR 447.52(e)(1).
- The process used by the state to inform providers whether cost sharing for a specific item or service may be imposed on a beneficiary and whether the provider may require the beneficiary to pay the cost sharing charge, as a condition for receiving the item or service, is (check all that apply):
- The state includes an indicator in the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)
 - The state includes an indicator in the Eligibility and Enrollment System
 - The state includes an indicator in the Eligibility Verification System
 - The state includes an indicator on the Medicaid card, which the beneficiary presents to the provider
 - Other process

Description:

The state provides billing guidance to providers and MCOs that is incorporated by reference.

- Contracts with managed care organizations (MCOs) provide that any cost-sharing charges the MCO imposes on Medicaid enrollees are in accordance with the cost sharing specified in the state plan and the requirements set forth in 42 CFR 447.50 through 447.57.

Cost Sharing for Non-Emergency Services Provided in a Hospital Emergency Department

The state imposes cost sharing for non-emergency services provided in a hospital emergency department.

Yes

- The state ensures that before providing non-emergency services and imposing cost sharing for such services, that the hospitals providing care:



Medicaid Premiums and Cost Sharing

- Conduct an appropriate medical screening under 42 CFR 489.24, subpart G to determine that the individual does not need emergency services;
 - Inform the individual of the amount of his or her cost sharing obligation for non-emergency services provided in the emergency department;
 - Provide the individual with the name and location of an available and accessible alternative non-emergency services provider;
 - Determine that the alternative provider can provide services to the individual in a timely manner with the imposition of a lesser cost sharing amount or no cost sharing if the individual is otherwise exempt from cost sharing; and
 - Provide a referral to coordinate scheduling for treatment by the alternative provider.
- The state assures that it has a process in place to identify hospital emergency department services as non-emergency for purposes of imposing cost sharing. This process does not limit a hospital's obligations for screening and stabilizing treatment of an emergency medical condition under section 1867 of the Act; or modify any obligations under either state or federal standards relating to the application of a prudent-layperson standard for payment or coverage of emergency medical services by any managed care organization.

The process for identifying emergency department services as non-emergency for purposes of imposing cost sharing is:

The state maintains a list of codes that will be periodically updated.

Cost Sharing for Drugs

The state charges cost sharing for drugs.

Yes

The state has established differential cost sharing for preferred and non-preferred drugs.

No

- All drugs will be considered preferred drugs.

Beneficiary and Public Notice Requirements

- Consistent with 42 CFR 447.57, the state makes available a public schedule describing current cost sharing requirements in a manner that ensures that affected applicants, beneficiaries and providers are likely to have access to the notice. Prior to submitting a SPA which establishes or substantially modifies existing cost sharing amounts or policies, the state provides the public with advance notice of the SPA, specifying the amount of cost sharing and who is subject to the charges, and provides reasonable opportunity for stakeholder comment. Documentation demonstrating that the notice requirements have been met are submitted with the SPA. The state also provides opportunity for additional public notice if cost sharing is substantially modified during the SPA approval process.

Other Relevant Information

The State has copayments for covered Outpatient Pharmacy medications for adults (21 and older) in the traditional Medicaid program. Those copayments are \$4 per prescription.

Groups of Individuals who are mandatorily exempt from cost sharing as described in section G3 have \$0 co-payment for all prescriptions. Additionally, antiretroviral medications used to reduce HIV viral load, opioid antagonists (naloxone/nalmefene), nicotine replacement therapy, and medications used to treat opioid use disorder are not subject to co-payments.



Medicaid Premiums and Cost Sharing

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. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. 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, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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