



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


JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

JAY LUDLAM • Deputy Secretary, NC Medicaid

SIGNATURE REQUEST MEMORANDUM

TO:

Jay Ludlam ^{DS} 

FROM:

Ashley Blango, SPA Manager

RE:

State Plan Amendment

Title XIX, Social Security Act
Transmittal #2025-0017

Purpose

Attached for your review and signature is a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (**Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program (SAIOP)**) summarized below, and submitted on December 22, 2025, with a due date of January 2, 2026.

Clearance

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

Ashley Blango, Kathryn Horneffer, Todd Baustert, Tabitha Evans, Chris Gordon, Melanie Bush

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.

The purpose of the revisions to the State Plan Amendment is to amend the Medicaid State Plan Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program (SAIOP) services. The State Plan pages for the following services are being amended to align with the ASAM Criteria, Third Edition, 2013. The new rate will be established at \$250.15 per diem effective January 1, 2026. This rate increase is intended to sustain provider participation within the Medicaid program, address some of the increased cost of the service, and support access to care statewide.

The proposed effective date for the SPA is January 1, 2026.

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

NC MEDICAID

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH BENEFITS

State Plan Under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
Medical Assistance Program
State: North Carolina

4.b. Diagnostic, Screening, Treatment, Preventive and Rehabilitative Services (continued)
Description of Services

(i) Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient (SAIOP) ASAM Level 2.1

This service provides intensive outpatient structured programming for an adolescent or adult beneficiary diagnosed with a primary substance use disorder. SAIOP is an American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Level 2.1 service that provides 6 to 19 hours per week of structured programming for an adolescent beneficiary and 9 to 19 hours per week for an adult beneficiary.

Services provided include:

- Individual therapy, counseling and support,
- Group therapy, counseling and support,
- Family counseling and support,
- Biochemical assessments to identify recent drug use (e.g. urine drug screens),
- Coordination and referral for ancillary services
- Education on relapse prevention and the development of social support systems,
- Education on life skills and crisis contingency planning
- Education on physical health management,
- Service coordination activities

Family counseling and support and group therapy, counseling and support are provided only for the direct benefit of the beneficiary. This service must be ordered by a physician, licensed psychologist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

SAIOP shall support a beneficiary who is prescribed or would benefit from medications, including medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), to address their substance use or mental health diagnosis. Coordination of care with a prescribing physician is required.

This service can only be provided by qualified substance abuse professional staff with the following NC licenses or certifications:

- certified alcohol and drug counselors (CADC), CADC-Interns [A CADC-Intern is a CADC applicant who has passed the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC) Alcohol and Drug Counselor Exam and completed 300 hours of supervised work with a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) or Clinical Supervisor Intern (CSI) at a ratio of one hour of supervision per ten hours of work], Registrant (Alcohol and Drug Counselor), paraprofessional, Associate Professional (AP), Qualified Professional (QP);
- licensed clinical addiction specialists (LCAS), associate level LCAS, certified clinical supervisor (CCS); and
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate (LCSWA), Licensed Clinical Mental Health Clinician (LCMHC) or Licensed Clinical Mental Health Clinician Associate (LCMHCA), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFTA), Licensed Psychologist.

In accordance with 25 U.S.C. 1621t, licensed health professionals employed by a tribal health program are exempt, if licensed in any state, from the licensing requirements of the State (North Carolina) in which the tribal health program performs the services described in the contract or compact of the tribal health program under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

This service must be provided in a facility licensed by the State or by an Indian Health Service (IHS) or 638 contract or compact operated by a Federally Recognized Tribe as allowed in USC CH. 18: INDIAN HEALTH CARE §1621t Licensing and §1647a Nondiscrimination under federal health care programs in qualifications for reimbursement services. Services delivered via telehealth must be for the benefit of the beneficiary.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

State: North CarolinaPAYMENTS FOR MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICE

8) Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program (SAIOP) H0015

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Program (SAIOP). The agency's fee schedule rate of \$131.56 per diem was set as of July 1, 2012. Effective March 1, 2022, the rate increased to \$133.72 per diem for services provided on or after that date. The fee schedule is published on the Division of Health Benefits website at https://ncdhhs.servicenowservices.com/fee_schedules

Effective August 1, 2024, the agency's published Enhanced Mental Health Services fee schedule rates are effective for services provided on or after that date. The Enhanced Mental Health Services fee schedule is published on the Division of Health Benefits website at https://ncdhhs.servicenowservices.com/fee_schedules

Effective January 1, 2026, the agency's published Enhanced Mental Health Services fee schedule rates are effective for services provided on or after that date. The Enhanced Mental Health Services fee schedule is published on the Division of Health Benefits website at https://ncdhhs.servicenowservices.com/fee_schedules

This service will be provided by direct enrolled Medicaid providers who may be either private or governmental. This service is not cost settled for any provider. This service is provided in accordance with Attachment 3.1-

A.1 Page 7c.8, Paragraph 4.b., subparagraph (i), and Attachments 3.1-A.1 Page 15a.2-B through 3.1-A.1 Page 15a.2-D.

The facilities providing this service are not IMD facilities and NC Medicaid is not reimbursing room and board for this service.

In the event this service is operated by a 638 Compact or Indian Health Service Provider, the rate of reimbursement shall be the All-Inclusive Rate (AIR) established on an annual basis as published in the Federal Register.

In the event this service is operated by a 638 Compact or Indian Health Service Provider and is not covered under the criteria to receive the All-Inclusive Rate (AIR), the provider is subject to the NC Medicaid Fee Schedule or other agreed upon rate(s) by the payor.

TN No: 25-0017

Supersedes

TN No: 24-0017

Approval Date:

Effective Date: 01/01/2026