



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 <sup>DS</sup> 

**FROM:**

Ashley Blango, SPA Manager

**RE:**

State Plan Amendment

Title XIX, Social Security Act  
Transmittal #2025-0027

**Purpose**

Attached for your review and signature is a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (**MAT (Medication-Assisted Treatment)**) summarized below, and submitted on December 17, 2025, with a due date of December 19, 2025.

**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 transition to the new Section 1905(a)(29) MAT SPA Preprint published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS). The amendment will clarify each service provided by an OTP; components of each service; practitioners that furnish each service; and a brief summary of the qualifications for each practitioner.

The proposed effective date for the SPA is October 1, 2025.

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**

**Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-A**

**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
State/Territory: North Carolina**

**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

Citation: 3.1-A Amount, Duration, and Scope of Services

**[Please check the box below to indicate if this benefit is provided for the categorically needy (3.1-A) or medically needy only (3.1-B)]**

☒ 1905(a)(29) MAT as described and limited in Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-A.

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TN: 25-0027  
Supersedes TN: 21 - 0006

Approval Date: TBD  
Effective Date: 10/01/2025

**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
State/Territory: North Carolina**

**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

**General Assurances**

**[Select all three checkboxes below.]**

☒ MAT is covered under the Medicaid state plan for all Medicaid beneficiaries who meet the medical necessity criteria for receipt of the service for the period beginning October 1, 2020.

☒ The state assures coverage of Naltrexone, Buprenorphine, and Methadone and all of the forms of these drugs for MAT that are approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) and all biological products licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

☒ The state assures that Methadone for MAT is provided by Opioid Treatment Programs that meet the requirements in 42 C.F.R. Part 8.

**Service Package**

The state covers the following counseling services and behavioral health therapies as part of MAT: **[Please describe in the text fields as indicated below.]**

Please set forth each service and components of each service (if applicable), along with a description of each service and component service.

**Assessments** –may include a comprehensive medical history, physical examination, and laboratory test; a face-to-face evaluative review by a qualified licensed practitioner, of a beneficiary's medical, psychological, familial, social and psychiatric treatment history; current mental status and functioning, strengths, natural supports, current treatment and medication regime, for the purpose of developing a diagnostic formulation of treatment needs and a treatment plan.

**Person-centered and recovery focused treatment planning** – a collaborative process between the Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) provider and a beneficiary and/or a beneficiary's authorized representative (if applicable) to develop a written person-centered plan that outlines attainable treatment goals, the services to be provided, and the proposed frequency and schedule for their provision.

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**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
State/Territory: North Carolina**

**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

**Medication management** - pharmacologic management including review of medication use, both current and historical, if indicated; evaluation of symptoms being treated, side effects and effectiveness of current medication(s), adjustment of medications if indicated, and prescription, provided by a medical professional practicing within the scope of his or her licensure; may be provided under Physician Services.

**Outpatient therapy** - outpatient psychotherapy including individual insight oriented, behavior modifying, and/or supportive psychotherapy; interactive psychotherapy; group psychotherapy; and family psychotherapy. Family psychotherapy is provided to the extent that it is for the direct benefit of the beneficiary.

**Urine drug screens and test-** biochemical assays to identify recent drug use (presumptive drug screens and definitive drug tests).

**Medication administration and monitoring-** treatment with methadone, buprenorphine formulations, or other medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD); and ongoing assessment and treatment of a beneficiary prescribed medication for OUD.

**Psychoeducation** – includes health education information regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other health services.

**Laboratory and diagnostic test** – include pregnancy test, tuberculosis (TB) test, and drug toxicology.

**Service Coordination-** coordination of services with care management entities and coordination of on-site and off-site treatment and supports

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**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
State/Territory: North Carolina**

**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

Please include each practitioner and provider entity that furnishes each service and component service.

The following practitioners may furnish assessments according to their scope of practice:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists (LCAS)
- Licensed Clinical Addition Specialists Associates (LCAS-A)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associates (LCSW-A)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (LCMHC-A)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFT-A)
- Licensed Psychologist (LP/Ph.D.)
- Licensed Psychologist Associate (LPA)

The following practitioners may furnish nursing assessments:

- Nurse Practitioners (NP)
- Registered Nurses (RN)

The following practitioners may furnish person-centered and recovery focused treatment planning:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists (LCAS)
- Licensed Clinical Addition Specialists Associates (LCAS-A)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

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**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
State/Territory: North Carolina**

**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associates (LCSW-A)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (LCMHC-A)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFT-A)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Intern (CADC-I), and Registrant
- Licensed Psychologist (LP/Ph.D.)
- Licensed Psychologist Associate (LPA)

The following practitioners may furnish medication evaluation and management:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner

The following practitioners may furnish outpatient therapy services according to their scope of practice:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists (LCAS)
- Licensed Clinical Addition Specialists Associates (LCAS-A)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associates (LCSW-A)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (LCMHC-A)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFT-A)

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**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

- Licensed Psychologist (LP/Ph.D.)
- Licensed Psychologist Associate (LPA)

The following practitioners may administer medications for opioid use disorder (OUD):

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse

The following practitioners may furnish urine drug screens and tests:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists (LCAS)
- Licensed Clinical Addition Specialists Associates (LCAS-A)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associates (LCSW-A)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (LCMHC-A)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFT-A)
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Intern (CADC-I), and Registrant
- Licensed Psychologist (LP/Ph.D.)
- Licensed Psychologist Associate (LPA)

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**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
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**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

The following practitioners may furnish psychoeducation:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse

The following practitioners may furnish laboratory and diagnostic test (pregnancy test, tuberculosis (TB) test, and drug toxicology) in accordance with the physician, PA or NP's order:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse

The following practitioners may furnish service coordination:

- Licensed Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialists (LCAS)
- Licensed Clinical Addition Specialists Associates (LCAS-A)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associates (LCSW-A)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC)
- Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Associate (LCMHC-A)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate (LMFT-A)

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**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC), Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Intern (CADC-I), and Registrant
- Licensed Psychologist (LP/Ph.D.)
- Licensed Psychologist Associate (LPA)

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**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

Please include a brief summary of the qualifications for each practitioner or provider entity that the state requires. Include any licensure, certification, registration, education, experience, training and supervisory arrangements that the state requires.

- LCAS: Must possess a master's degree, 2000-4000 hours post-Masters experience & passage of the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC) Exam and have a valid license or certification from the NC Addiction Specialists Professional Practice Board.
- LCAS-A: Associate status, must possess a master's degree, 300 hours of supervised post-master's practicum and supervision agreement while pursuing full LCAS licensure from the NC Addiction Specialists Professional Practice Board.
- LCSW: Must possess a Master's Degree of Social Work (MSW), Doctorate of Social Work (DSW), or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Social Work; and passage of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) clinical level exam and possess a minimum of 3000 hours of post-MSW paid clinical employment appropriately supervised clinical practice accumulated in a period of 2-6 years. Certification or licensure by the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board (NCSWCLB).
- LCSW-A: Must possess a MSW, DSW, or PhD in Social Work and pursuing the requirements of a fully licensed LCSW (noted above).
- LCMHC: Must possess a master's degree in counseling or a related field from a program accredited by the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, complete 3000 hours of supervised professional practice with a mental health professional approved by the board, and pass an examination in accordance with rules adopted by the North Carolina Board of Clinical Mental Health Counselors.
- LCMHC-A: Associate status, must possess a master's degree in counseling or a related field from a program accredited by the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs and pursuing the requirements of a fully licensed LCMHC (noted above).
- LMFT: Must possess a master's degree in a qualifying degree program, complete 1500 hours of documented clinical experience in the practice of marriage and family therapy

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and complete a minimum of 200 supervision hours with an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) certified supervisor.

- LMFT-A: Associate status, must possess a master's degree in a qualifying degree program and pursuing the requirements of a fully licensed LMFT.
- LP/Ph.D.: Must possess a PhD in Psychology, passage of Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and possess a minimum of 3000 hours of supervised experience in the practice of psychology. Licensed by the North Carolina Psychology Board.
- LPA: Licensed Psychologists Associates must possess a Master's Degree in Psychology, possess 500 hours of supervised experience, passage of the EPPP. Licensed Psychologists Associates are required to be supervised by a licensed psychologist for their clinical activities.
- Physician: Must be licensed by the North Carolina Medical Board and must meet one of the following criteria:
  - Have at least one year of experience in providing substance use disorder treatment services; OR
  - Be certified in addiction medicine by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) or the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM), or in addiction psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN); OR
  - Be supervised by the Opioid Treatment Program medical director; OR
  - Be supervised by an Opioid Treatment Program physician who holds current certification in addiction medicine (ASAM or ABPM) or addiction psychiatry (ABPN).
- Physician Assistant (PA): Licensed by the North Carolina Medical Board and certified with the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, with appropriate federal waiver of 42 CFR Part 8.12(h). Have at least 1 year of experience in the provision of substance use disorder treatment services or be supervised by the OTP medical director or be supervised by the OTP program physician who holds current certification in addiction medicine by the ASAM or the ABPM, or in addiction psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

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**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

- Nurse Practitioner (NP): Active licensure by the North Carolina Board of Nursing with appropriate federal waiver of 42 CFR Part 8.12(h). Have at least 1 year of experience in the provision of substance use disorder treatment services.
- Registered nurse (RN): Active licensure as an RN with the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Have a minimum of 1-year of experience working with adults with a substance use disorder.
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): Active licensure with the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Have a minimum of 1-year of experience working with adults with a substance use disorder.
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC): Completed 6,000 hours of supervised substance use disorder counseling experienced verified by a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS) or Certified Supervisor Intern (CSI). Have a valid certification from the North Carolina Addiction Specialist Professional Practice Board.
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor Intern (CADC-I): Completed 300 hours of supervised work with a CCS or CSI at a ratio of 1 hour of supervision per 10 hours of work and passing of the IC&RC exam.
- Registrant: Completed application provided by the North Carolina Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board (NCSAPPB), documentation of the degree required for the credential, a supervision agreement with a CCS or CSI, signed adherence to the NCSAPPB ethical standards, three (3) documented hours of educational training in ethics, job description evidencing practice is under the scope of practice for the credential sought, resume, completion of background check.

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 (i.e. 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.).

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**Section 1905(a)(29) Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

**Utilization Controls****[Select all applicable checkboxes below.]**

- ☒ The state has drug utilization controls in place. (Check each of the following that apply)
- ☐ Generic first policy
  - ☒ Preferred drug lists
  - ☒ Clinical criteria
  - ☒ Quantity limits
- ☐ The state does not have drug utilization controls in place.

**Limitations****[Describe the state's limitations on amount, duration, and scope of MAT drugs, biologicals, and counseling and behavioral therapies related to MAT.]**

MAT drugs are covered in the Outpatient Pharmacy Program in accordance with the SUPPORT Act. Drugs listed as non-preferred on the PDL require prior authorization. The duration of treatment is determined by the prescriber.

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