



# Public Notice

## Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan

In accordance with 42 CFR 447.203, the Medical Services Division of the Department of Human Services developed the **North Dakota Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan 2016**, to be submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

The department is seeking **public comments** on the Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan **through Sept. 9, 2016, at 5 p.m. (Central Time)**.

The CMS Access Monitoring final rule of November 2, 2015, limits focus on Access Monitoring to traditional fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid beneficiaries, including children who are Health Tracks (EPSDT) beneficiaries. As of March 2016, **68,287** individuals were eligible for traditional Medicaid.

Analysis of the data and information utilized to monitor access has the goal that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to healthcare that is comparable to that of the general population in North Dakota. The CMS Access Rule clarifies: Although states must demonstrate that beneficiaries have access to covered services at least comparable to others in the geographic area, comparable access does not necessarily require that beneficiaries obtain services from the same providers, or the same number of providers, as the other individuals in the geographic area.

The North Dakota Access Monitoring Plan discusses in some detail the dynamics related to North Dakota's demographic changes, impact of rurality and provider availability geographically, and about North Dakota's efforts to improve health care access for all citizens. The plan emphasizes acquisition of actionable data and establishes the expectation that barriers to access that are identified in specific geographical areas of North Dakota will be analyzed to define underlying access barriers.

The plan emphasizes the following five health care provider categories:

1. Primary Care Services (including those provided by a physician, Federally Qualified Health Center, clinic or dental provider)
2. Physician Specialist Services (for example, cardiology, urology, radiology)
3. Behavioral Health Services (including mental health and substance abuse)
4. Pre- and Post-Natal Obstetric Services (including labor and delivery)
5. Home Health Services (provided in the home after certain hospital stays)

Comments will be accepted in the following ways:

**Email:** [dhsmed@nd.gov](mailto:dhsmed@nd.gov)

**Phone:** 800-755-2604 or 701-328-2321 or Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888

**Fax:** 701-328-1544

**Mail:** North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Medical Services Division  
Attn: Doug Boknecht  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

View the entire draft Medicaid Access Monitoring Plan at  
[www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html).

Copies of the draft plan can also be provided upon request.

Date Posted: August 9, 2016