

ND Medicaid Program

The ND Medicaid program will be submitting a disaster relief state plan amendment to modify or waive certain requirements as a result of the COVID-19 National Emergency. The provisions of this state plan amendment (SPA) will be effective March 1, 2020 and will expire upon termination of the public health emergency, including any extensions. The following items will be included in the disaster relief state plan amendment:

- Modification of the requirement to submit the SPA by March 31, 2020, to obtain an effective date during the first calendar quarter of 2020, pursuant to 42 CFR 430.20.
- Waiver of public notice requirements that would otherwise be applicable to this SPA submission. These requirements may include those specified in 42 CFR 440.386 (Alternative Benefit Plans), 42 CFR 447.57(c) (premiums and cost sharing), and 42 CFR 447.205 (public notice of changes in statewide methods and standards for setting payment rates).
- ND Medicaid State plan allows for expedited consultation in certain circumstances. North Dakota will be issuing written consultation within two weeks of submitting the SPA.
- Expansion of prior authorization for medications by automatic renewal without clinical review, or time/quantity extensions.
- Make exceptions to the published Preferred Drug List if drug shortages occur. This would include options for covering a brand name drug product that is a multi-source drug if a generic drug option is not available.
- Modification of provider qualifications which may include suspending competency and state criteria.
- Waive the 12-month requirement for a continued stay review for a resident of an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability.
- Waive the requirement that the nursing facility established rate cannot exceed the limit rate for allowable unforeseeable expenses.
- Waive the timelines for nursing facility rate reconsiderations and appeals.
- Waive the 15-day limit for payment for bed hold for an inpatient hospitalization for a resident of a nursing facility or intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability if the hospital stay is due to a diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Suspend premiums for individuals eligible under the Workers with Disabilities or Children with Disabilities groups.

Comments can be sent to and viewed at: Medical Services Division Room 309, ND Department of Human Services, 600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325, Bismarck, ND 58505-0250. Questions may be directed to human service zone offices (formerly local county social service offices), or individuals may contact the ND Medicaid Program at 1-800-755-2604.

Date Posted: April 2, 2020