

ND Medicaid Expansion Program Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) and 1915(b) Waiver Amendment Submission

Senate Bill 2012 of the 2019 North Dakota Legislative Assembly directed the Department of Human Services to obtain Social Security Act 1915(i) authority to expand the North Dakota Medicaid State Plan to include coverage for additional Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to support Medicaid eligible individuals with specified behavioral health conditions. The 1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment has been submitted and the Department is awaiting Center of Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) approval prior to implementation. Information about 1915(i) Services such as eligibility criteria and covered services, including the 1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment, can be found at www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/1915i.

Individuals who receive ND Medicaid Expansion benefits will be eligible for the 1915(i) Services. As the benefits for ND Medicaid Expansion are provided through an Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP), the Department will be submitting to CMS a state plan amendment effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2020, for the ABP to include the 1915(i) Services as indicated within the 1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment. The ABP benefits include Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for those enrolled with ND Medicaid Expansion who are under age 21, to assure compliance with 42 CFR 440.345 the Department aligned the ABP 1915(i) Services to be consistent with those available under Traditional Medicaid fee-for-service through the 1915(i) Medicaid State Plan Amendment. All Medicaid Expansion enrollees, including those under 21, will receive notification of the 1915(i) Services through the Managed Care Organization member materials regarding services.

In addition, the services for ND Medicaid Expansion are furnished through a Managed Care Organization North Dakota per authority granted by CMS under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act. This authority allows mandatory enrollment for individuals, including Native Americans, eligible for Medicaid Expansion into the plan offered by the contracted private carrier (managed care organization). The Department will be submitting an amendment to include the 1915(i) Services within the 1915(b) Waiver for Managed Care Enrollment of the Medicaid Expansion. No other changes to the program, benefits, or operations will be included.

Copies of the amendment documents are available upon request. 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 the human service zone offices, or individuals may contact the ND Medicaid Program at 1-800-755-2604.

Input will be accepted through 5 p.m. CT on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020.

Date posted: Aug. 28, 2020