

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 18-K: Chemical Maintenance Clinic Reimbursement Update

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after February 1, 2018, SPA 18-K will amend Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan to update the reimbursement methodology for chemical maintenance clinics as follows. Previously CMS notified DSS that the provider-specific reimbursement methodology for chemical maintenance clinics needed to be updated in order to comply with federal Medicaid requirements. Based on CMS guidance, this SPA makes various changes as outlined on the SPA pages, including: pro-rating the weekly rate to account for weeks in which services are provided on fewer than seven days in the week, specifying in detail the services that are included in the rate, and providing for specific types of documentation regarding the services that are provided. The SPA also removes references to specific provider locations, establishes provisions for merged clinics and newly licensed clinics, and authorizes payment for take-home doses in compliance with federal guidelines. No changes are being made to the provider-specific weekly rates, although an increase in expenditures is anticipated from one or more new chemical maintenance clinic locations being added.

This SPA is necessary in order to ensure that the reimbursement methodology for chemical maintenance clinics remains in compliance with federal Medicaid requirements.

Fiscal Impact

DSS estimates that this SPA will increase annual aggregate expenditures by approximately \$392,000 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 and \$1.3 million in SFY 2019.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

This SPA is posted on the DSS web site at the following link: <http://portal.ct.gov/dss>. Scroll down to the bottom of the webpage and click on “Publications” and then click on “Updates.” Then click on “Medicaid State Plan Amendments”. The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office, at the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55

Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105 (Phone: 860-424-5067). Please reference “SPA 18-K: Chemical Maintenance Clinic Reimbursement”.

Anyone may send DSS written comments about this SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than February 14, 2018.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State Connecticut

(g) Chemical Maintenance Clinics.

1. Chemical maintenance services shall be reimbursed based on a provider-specific weekly rate listed below. Providers shall be certified and licensed by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health and shall comply with all applicable federal and state requirements, including, but not limited to, requirements specific to the provision of chemical maintenance services.
2. New chemical maintenance providers licensed by the Department of Public Health shall receive the weighted statewide rate as listed below. Any existing provider that opens an additional licensed location shall receive the provider's current rate as listed below.
3. When two or more current chemical maintenance providers merge to form a different legal entity, the data used to calculate the provider specific weekly rate of the original entities are totaled and used as the basis for determining a rate for the new entity. The same methodology will be used when one chemical maintenance provider purchases another chemical maintenance provider.
4. In order to qualify for chemical maintenance reimbursement, providers shall ensure all participants receive appropriate intake and/or annual physical exams. This requirement is a prerequisite to being able to bill for chemical maintenance services. Reimbursement for physical exams is a component of the weekly rate and shall not be reimbursed separately.
5. Payment for chemical maintenance services (including methadone dispensing) weekly rate that includes at least one unit of the following categories of service per day for seven days: in-person medication administration, take-home medication doses or any in-person clinical service provided at the clinic that meets the billing code clinical and minimum time definitions for individual, group or family psychotherapy or any combination thereof. A provider may bill multiple weekly rates during an in-person dispensing visit in order to account for the dispensed take-home doses up to the limitations in federal requirements for take-home doses, provided that the total number of doses billed is no greater than the total number of days allocated to each weekly rate. For any week for which such a service is provided on fewer than seven days, the Department shall prorate the rate to pay only for the number of days in the week during which such a service was provided.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State Connecticut

6. The rate for chemical maintenance treatment includes all of the following: intake evaluation; initial physical examination; medication administration, including face to face medication administration or take-home medication; on-site drug use screening and monitoring; and all routine individual, group and family substance use disorder counseling services. Other services may be provided and paid for separately in accordance with the applicable reimbursement methodology for the service.
7. The provider shall perform or make arrangements for the provision of all routine drug use screening and monitoring, which is included in the weekly rate. The minimum frequency for in-house drug use testing is eight per year or as otherwise required by federal requirements. Any laboratory work other than routine drug use screening may be provided by a laboratory other than the behavioral health clinic and such services are not included in the rate for chemical maintenance treatment. Such drug use testing services that are outside the weekly rate for chemical maintenance services that are conducted by a certified and Medicaid enrolled independent laboratory may be billed separately in accordance with section (3) of Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan. The chemical maintenance clinic provider shall include clinical documentation demonstrating the need for any external laboratory testing ordered or referred by the provider. The provider shall also include documentation in each member's medical records that appropriate medical personnel at the provider have reviewed and interpreted external laboratory tests and explain in the medical records how such interpretation of the tests has affected the member's plan of care.
8. The sources used by the Department to develop the provider specific chemical maintenance weekly rate include, but are not limited to:
 - Annual Chemical Maintenance Provider cost reports.
 - Medicaid claim data from the Medicaid Management Information System.
 - Subject matter expertise with developing mental health payment models.
 - Provider's budget forecasts and financial statements.
 - Feedback from providers and other stakeholders.

TN # 18-K
Supersedes
TN # NEW

Approval Date _____

Effective Date 02-01-2018

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State Connecticut

9. Chemical maintenance clinic providers shall be reimbursed off of the following provider-specific reimbursement schedule (and in accordance with the provisions detailed above):

CHEMICAL MAINTENANCE PROVIDER NAME	WEEKLY RATE FOR 7 DOSES
APT FOUNDATION INC	\$99.49
CHEMICAL ABUSE SERVICES AGENCY	\$86.18
COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES, INC A/K/A COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND ADDICTION SVCS	\$97.13
COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE ABUSE CENTERS INC	\$96.27
CONNECTICUT COUNSELING CENTERS INC	\$91.10
HARTFORD DISPENSARY	\$75.80
LIBERATION PROGRAMS INC	\$85.96
NEW ERA REHABILITATION CENTER	\$87.02
REGIONAL NETWORK OF PROGRAMS	\$95.99
NEW CHEMICAL MAINTENANCE CLINICS (Newly licensed on or after February 1, 2018)	\$88.52

TN # 18-K
Supersedes
TN # NEW

Approval Date _____

Effective Date 02-01-2018