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Montana Medicaid State Plan Amendments effective July 1, 2024

On or before June 30, 2024, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will submit the following Montana Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendments (SPAs) effective July 1, 2024.

**Rate Increase Background**

In 2022, DPHHS contracted with Guidehouse to conduct a comprehensive Medicaid provider rate review for three DPHHS divisions: Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Health Resources, and Senior and Long-Term Care. The review utilized a multitude of data sources, survey data collection and stakeholder feedback.

Guidehouse identified benchmark rates based on the average costs for providers to deliver services. The benchmark rates provided a framework that was used by both the Department and legislature in determining provider rate increases. Ultimately, the legislature approved an historic increase in Medicaid provider rates. Effective July 1, 2024, studied rates will be increased to the identified benchmark rate, unless the rate is already at or above the benchmark rate.

**Medicaid Rate Increases included in the Guidehouse Study**

As a result of the Guidehouse study and the 2023 Legislative Session appropriation, the **studied** Medicaid provider types will be amended to receive an average of 7.01% rate increase. The specific rate increase for each service is dependent upon the difference between the current rate and the Guidehouse benchmark rate.

The provider types included in the Guidehouse study are:

<b>Provider Type</b>	<b>Weighted Rate Change (Fiscal Year 2025)</b>
CASE MANAGEMENT – ADULT MENTAL HEALTH	6.79%
CASE MANAGEMENT - TARGETED	2.11%
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CLINIC	0.35%
COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE	12.56%
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY TREATMENT (CSCT)	0.13%
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM	6.06%
Adult Foster Support (low supervision)	29.66%
Adult Foster Support (moderate supervision)	23.01%
Adult Foster Support (enhanced supervision)	14.28%
Private Duty Nursing (Medicaid State Plan) RN	13.44%
Companion	11.94%
Private Duty Nursing (Medicaid State Plan) LPN	11.44%
Personal Care	11.38%
Behavioral Support Services	10.35%
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT	0.23%

<b>Provider Type (continued)</b>	<b>Weighted Rate Change (Fiscal Year 2025)</b>
BIG SKY WAIVER HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES	6.24%
Specially Trained Attendant - RN	15.99%
Transportation - Miles	15.37%
Homemaker	14.06%
Specially Trained Attendant - LPN	13.88%
Private Duty Nursing	13.78%
Private Duty Nursing - RN	13.78%
Personal Assistance Nurse Supervision - Agency-Based	13.62%
Community Support Services	13.46%
Personal Assistance Attendant - Agency-Based	13.14%
Personal Assistance Attendant -Self-Directed	12.91%
Personal Assistance Oversight - Self Directed	12.91%
Specially Trained Attendant	11.88%
Nutrition (Meals)	11.87%
Private Duty Nursing - LPN	11.76%
Prevocational Services	10.68%
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER - ADULT	3.48%
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER - CHILD	11.73%
NURSING HOME	8.31%
PERSONAL CARE AGENCY	12.09%
PERSONAL CARE AGENCY - YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH	12.65%
PERSONAL CARE AGENCY – ADULT MENTAL HEALTH	8.94%
PRIVATE DUTY NURSING AGENCY	12.76%
PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY	7.85%
SEVERE DISABILING MENTAL ILLNESS (SDMI) HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER	6.71%
Private Duty Nursing - RN	13.42%
Behavioral Intervention Assistant	12.55%
Personal Assistance Attendant - Self-Directed	12.28%
Nutrition (Meals)	11.53%
Private Duty Nursing - LPN	11.44%
Personal Assistance Attendant	11.37%
THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE - HOME SUPPORT SERVICES	10.78%
THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOME	4.24%
WASP 1115 WAIVER	3.37%
<b>Average Rate Increase for Medicaid Studied Rates</b>	<b>7.01%</b>

**Medicaid Rate Increases Not Included in the Guidehouse Study**

Medicaid services and provider types not included in the Guidehouse study will be amended to receive an approximate 4% rate increase appropriated in the 2023 Montana Legislative Session, effective July 1, 2024, except the following:

- Youth Mental Health Targeted Case Management services, which are currently reimbursed at the benchmark rate.
- Other Rehabilitative Services Mobile Crisis and Substance Use Disorder services (ASAM 2.1-3.7), which are also currently reimbursed at the benchmark rate.

## Other Medicaid and CHIP Changes

In addition to rate increases, the following Medicaid and CHIP changes are proposed effective July 1, 2024.

Nutritionist, Respite, Companion, and Personal Care services in the Home and Community Based Comprehensive Waiver for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities are moving to a 15-minute reimbursable unit to better align with the requirements of Electronic Visit Verification. This change is budget neutral.

The Optometrist and Eyeglasses State Plans will be updated to increase the frequency that members aged 21 and over can receive eye examinations and eyeglasses from every 730 days to every 365 days. The amendment's total estimated annual fiscal impact is \$597,400 for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025.

The Dental Services State Plan will be updated to remove the tooth restriction on porcelain or ceramic substrate crowns for members aged 21 and over. These changes are anticipated to be budget neutral as it is not anticipated that utilization will change significantly. While there is a cost differential between crown materials, adult members are limited to two crowns per year and the adult dental treatment limit of \$1,125.

The Other Rehabilitative Services State Plan will be updated to:

- Update Medical Necessity criteria for Behavioral Health Group Homes;
- Remove the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) and Montana Assertive Community Treatment (MACT); and
- Add the following services:
  - Community Maintenance Program (CMP)
  - Montana Assertive Community Treatment Program (MT-ACT) aligned with fidelity of the model.

The amendment's total estimated annual fiscal impact is \$2,000,000.

The Nursing Facilities State Plan will be updated to expand the current nursing facility reporting requirements and further define the information that needs to be provided. The proposed amendment will list the staffing and quality and performance data that will be collected on the monthly staffing report. This includes information on occupancy, staffing, demand for service, employee training, employee longevity and annual resident/family satisfaction survey. The proposed amendment will also extend the timeframe required for submitting reports. The amendment is budget neutral.

DPHHS also proposes to amend the state's HMK/CHIP State Plan to assure that copayments are not assessed for age-appropriate vaccines and their administration in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The amendment is budget neutral.

DPHHS is committed to an extensive public process. We invite your comments and questions on these waiver amendments called in, emailed or postmarked **through April 30, 2024**. You may

direct comments to the Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or [dphscomments@mt.gov](mailto:dphscomments@mt.gov); or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena MT 59604-4210.