

PUBLIC NOTICE – ALTERNATIVE BENEFITS PLAN

STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), in accordance with federal requirements found at 42 CFR 440.386 (Public Notice - Alternative Benefits Plan), proposes changes effective for dates of service May 12, 2023 through May 11, 2024.

The Department has requested that CMS extend the following flexibilities through May 11, 2024 for customers covered under the Alternative Benefits Plan:

- Reimburse virtual check-in and e-visit codes, including reimbursement outside of encounter rates.
- Reimburse COVID-19 specimen collection outside of the encounter rate.
- Reimburse COVID-19 vaccine administration outside of the encounter rate.
- Presumptive eligibility (PE) for the ACA Adults, Parent and Caretaker Relatives, Former Foster Care, and Pregnant Women, and Children and eligibility categories increased to two times per calendar year.
- Suspend premiums for the Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities (HBWD) program.
- Allow COVID-19 tests in non-office settings, such as parking lots.
- Continue to cover at-home COVID-19 tests billed through Medicaid participating pharmacies in accordance with Section 9811 and 9821 of the American Rescue Plan Act.
- Pharmacies continue to be qualified providers of COVID-19 vaccinations. Licensed pharmacists employed by an enrolled pharmacy continue to be qualified to order and administer COVID-19 vaccines, and pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns employed by an enrolled pharmacy administer COVID-19 vaccines when ordered by the supervising licensed pharmacist in accordance with the HHS COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act Declaration and authorizations.
- Disregard resources between the resource eligibility standard and establish a \$17,500 Resource Test. The state requests to use a \$17,500 resource test in determining eligibility for the following groups:
 - Mandatory ABD group for 209(b) States--1902(f)
 - Age and Disability-Related Poverty Level Group--1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(X)
 - Medically Needy Individuals under 21--1902(a)(10)(C)
 - Medically Needy Individuals Based on Age, Blindness, or Disability--1902(a)(10)(C)

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services will be provided to those individuals in the expanded population who are under age 21 as required by law and regulation, and consistent with current state policy regarding delivery of these services. Other covered services will include medically necessary services as prior authorized, as well as other services required to be covered pursuant to state or federal law, regulation or policy.

Consistent with federal law and the (the State Plan), written notice regarding the proposed State Plan Amendment was provided to the appropriate tribal contacts on April 5, 2023. No comments from the American Indian Health Services of Chicago were received.

Any interested party may submit questions or comments concerning these proposed changes. All questions or comments must be submitted in writing within two (2) weeks of the publication date of this notice and addressed to:

Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination
Division of Medical Programs
Healthcare and Family Services
201 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62763-0001
E-mail address: HFS.BPPC@illinois.gov

This notice is being provided in accordance with federal requirements found at 42 CFR 440.386.