Title of Rule: Revision to the Medical Assistance Act Rule concerning Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Rules, Section 8.6000
Rule Number: MSB 20-04-21-A
Division / Contact / Phone: Office of Community Living / Colin Laughlin / 303-866-2549

STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

1. Summary of the basis and purpose for the rule or rule change. (State what the rule says or does and explain why the rule or rule change is necessary).

   The purpose of this emergency rule is to temporarily change regulatory requirements for Department of Health Care Policy and Financing rules to provide enhanced flexibility, reduction to programmatic limitations, and alignment with existing federal guidance related to processes under the COVID-19 pandemic

2. An emergency rule-making is imperatively necessary

   ☐ to comply with state or federal law or federal regulation and/or
   ☒ for the preservation of public health, safety and welfare.

   Explain:

   The temporary changes to regulatory requirements in order to provide enhanced flexibility, reduction to programmatic limitations, and alignment with existing federal guidance related to processes under the COVID-19 pandemic is imperatively necessary fo the preservation of public health safety, and welfare.

3. Federal authority for the Rule, if any:

   Social Security Act Section 1135, Social Security Act 1115 (Pending), and Social Security Act 1915(c), Appendix K.

4. State Authority for the Rule:

   25.5-1-301 through 25.5-1-303, C.R.S. (2019); 25.5 Article 6, C.R.S.

Title of Rule: Revision to the Medical Assistance Act Rule concerning Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Rules, Section 8.6000
Rule Number: MSB 20-04-21-A
Division / Contact / Phone: Office of Community Living / Colin Laughlin / 303-866-2549

REGULATORY ANALYSIS

1. Describe the classes of persons who will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule and classes that will benefit from the proposed rule.

   Individual's receiving services in community-based settings, provider-owned community-based residential settings, provider-owned facility settings, and case management will all be benefitting from an increase in available funding to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

2. To the extent practicable, describe the probable quantitative and qualitative impact of the proposed rule, economic or otherwise, upon affected classes of persons.

   Those rendering services in facilities, the community, or even remotely from their office or home may receive additional payment to do so during this critical time. Those receiving services are likely to continue with more likely to experience uninterrupted services as direct care workers/direct support professionals will be incentivized to continue to provide these services.

3. Discuss the probable costs to the Department and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule and any anticipated effect on state revenues.

   Many of the changes the Department is asking for are cost neutral. Additionally, the Department has sought, and in some cases, received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to increase payments or rates. However, the Department also must work with its partners at the Office for State Planning and Budget as well as prioritize the many different areas of Medicaid that are impacted by COVID-19. Accordingly, the Department continues to estimate potential costs.

4. Compare the probable costs and benefits of the proposed rule to the probable costs and benefits of inaction.

   The comparison between direct cost and cost of inaction is hard to quantify. However, it is highly likely that the cost of doing nothing could be higher costs associated with more costly forms of care, significant impact to member's quality of life, and, in some cases – the loss of life or limb.

5. Determine whether there are less costly methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

At this time, the Department is also pursuing additional alternatives to ensure health, safety, and welfare but a key component of this effort is to ensure providers, agencies, and direct support professionals have the money they need to continue to go out in a time of crisis and provide services.

6. Describe any alternative methods for achieving the purpose for the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the Department and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule.

   As mentioned above, the Department is also partnering with community organizations, non-profits, advocacy organizations, other executive agencies, and the governor's office to work towards prioritizing Colorado's most vulnerable citizens receiving long-term care health, safety, and welfare.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE – SECTION 8.6000 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Rules

10 CCR 2505-10 8.6000

8.6000 COVID-19 EMERGENCY RULES

PURPOSE: To temporarily change regulatory requirements for Department of Health Care Policy and Financing rules to provide enhanced flexibility, reduced programmatic limitations, and alignment with existing federal guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.6001 REGULATORY CHANGES

The following regulations require, as applicable, that funds be made available for payment, federal approval is received, and any conflicting state statutory requirements are suspended by Executive Order. Each regulation below is effective once the applicable prerequisites are satisfied and shall continue to be in effect as long as those prerequisites continue to be satisfied.

8.6001.1 Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)

Section 8.420

Temporarily waive the requirement that payments for ICF-IID are only allowed for facilities licensed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to allow for potential inclusion of existing HCBS Group Homes.

Sections 8.404.3; 8.404.1; 8.405.2.22; 8.405.2.23; 8.405.2.24; 8.405.2.25.

Temporarily allow emergency placement of eligible individuals into an ICF-IID. Individual would still need to be fully eligible in meeting placement requirements but would allow for Department to expedite process through existing layers of review.

Sections 8.443.16.A; 8.443.1.C-D.

Temporarily allow payment beyond current limitation not to exceed COVID-19 emergency supplement payments.

8.6001.2 Nursing Facilities

Sections 8.443.10.B; 8.443.10.a; 8.443.11.A

Temporarily allow Nursing Facilities to receive a supplemental payment for COVID-19 related activities, provided the Nursing Facility organization follows Departmental guidance and benchmarks for the assurance of the member's health, safety, and welfare and adherence to published guidelines for safety.

Section 8.443.12.B – Inclusion of the Following Language:

COVID-19 Mitigation Emergency Supplemental Payment

Subject to available non-provider fee funding and Upper Payment Limit restrictions, the Department shall pay an additional supplemental payment to nursing facilities increasing measures to protect residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

1. In order to be eligible for this payment facilities must be:

    a. Compliant with all emergency related reported measures required by CMS, HCPF, CDPHE or the State Emergency Operations Center.

    b. Implementing enhanced operational guidelines required by CMS, HCPF, CDPHE or the State Emergency Operations Center.

    c. Cooperative with State or National efforts to mitigate the emergency

2. The Department will use historical Medicaid patient to calculate and issue supplemental payments.

3. All payments issued as an emergency supplemental payment due to COVID-19 must be reported as a revenue in the cost reporting period in which it is received.

Section 8.443.1.B Addition of the Following Language

In addition to the MMIS claims reimbursement and provider fee funded supplemental payments, the Department may issue additional supplemental payments necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of nursing facility residents when additional state or federal funding is available.

Establishment of Section 8.430.6 – Temporary Medicaid Nursing Facility Expansion

1. 8.430.6.A The Department may issue temporary enrollments for the purposes of increasing bed capacity during a public health emergency.

2. Facilities seeking temporary enrollments must submit plans to discharge residents within 60 days of the emergency end date.

3. Facilities with temporary Medicaid beds will be reimbursed statewide average rate for nursing facilities.

4. The enrollment will be effective until 60 days after the COVID-19 emergency is lifted.

5. After the 60 days has expired, the facility will receive no further reimbursement.

8.6001.3 Case Management

Sections 8.763.C; 8.761.46

Authorize providers of targeted case management services to increase, supplement, exceed, or provide additional authorization of units and correlating payments to all long-term care case management entities including transitional services for individuals needing community-placement due to COVID-19.

8.6001.4 Level of Care Assessment

Sections 8.393.2.c.5.a; 8.393.2.D.3.a; 8.393.3.A.1.c.i.3; 8.401.183.B; 8.497; 8.401; 8.491.2.B.2; 8.500.1; 8.500.90; 8.503; 8.504.1; 8.504.5.D; 8.506.3; 8.506.4.e.ii; 8.508.20; 8.515.5.B.1; 8.517.5.A.2; 8.519.1;

Remove the Professional Medical Information Page (PMIP) from the level of care determination for HCBS waivers, Long-Term Care-Home Health, PACE, NF, and ICF/IID programs to enable additional capacity and expedite enrollment.

Sections 8.390.3.A.2; 8.393.1.M.1.C; 8.393.2.C.5.; 8.393.2.D.1-3; 8.401.11 through 8.401.15; 8.485.61.B; 8.485.71.C; 8.486.201; 8.603.5.D; 8.500.18.B.3; 8.500.108.B.1; 8.503.70.3; 8.503.80.A; 8.506.3; 8.506.4.B; 8.509.14; 8.508.121; 8.503.70.A.1; 8.503.80.A.4; 8.506.4.B; 8.506.12.F; 8.508.20; 8.509.14; 8.509.31.A; 8.515.6.A.3; 8.517.7.A.3; 8.603.5.D; 8.503.30.A; 8.503.30.A.8; 8.508.121.A

Modify the requirements for initial and continued stay review assessments. For initial assessments, the level of care assessment will be limited to the Activities of Daily living which determines the functional eligibility/LOC for the member. Members pursuing a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver enrollment will be issued a start date based on the date of referral to the Case Management Agency, with the Level of Care to be completed with the member thereafter via telephonic or virtual modality. Changes to transfers from nursing facility to nursing facility by not requiring an entirely new assessment be conducted. For yearly re-assessments, the members existing eligibility will continue through the duration of 1135. Then the yearly re-assessment set to occur within six (6) months following the conclusion of the Section 1135 Waiver.

8.6001.5 Termination from Waiver Eligibility - Adverse Action

Sections 8.393.3.A.1.a through 8.393.A.1.d; 8.485.61.A through 8.485.61.D.3.b; 8.500.16.A.1 through 8.500.16.A.4; 8.500.16.E.1 and E.2; 8.503.160.A.1 through 8.500.160.A.4; 8.503.160.E.1 through 8.503.160.E.9; 8.508.190.A.1-4; 8.508.190.E.1 and E.2 ; 8.508.190.H.1-4; 8.508.190.I.3 and I.4; 8.509.15.A.1 through 8.509.15.A.4.c.1; 8.555.5.D.2

Remove requirement to involuntarily terminate a member from their selected HCBS waiver program

8.6001.6 Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

Section 8.401.18.181.A

PASRR Level I Screening and Level II Evaluations will be suspended for 30 days in accordance with Section 1919(e)(7) for new admissions.

8.6001.7 Personal Care

Sections 8.485.61.D.2-3; 8.489.10.11; 8.510.4.A

Temporarily waive the restriction of personal care services provided in Hospital, Nursing Facility, or other acute-like setting.

Sections 8.510.18; 8.552.1.B

Temporarily allow legally responsible person to provide services using participant directed models (Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) and In-Home Support Services (IHSS)).

8.6001.8 Guidelines for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD's)

Section 8.401.4

Temporarily waive the IMD requirements for nursing facilities that exceed 50% of patient-census with a primary diagnosis of major mental illness.

8.6001.9 Retainer Payments

Sections 8.515.80.F; 8.500.14.B.3

Temporarily allow specified Brain Injury waiver providers to bill retainer payments for services not rendered.