



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

## Guidance for Residential and Inpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment: Provider Reimbursement for Medicaid effective on Jan. 1, 2021

The Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) is the primary vehicle for delivering health care to Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) members. Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) are the central component of the ACC and are responsible for promoting members' physical and behavioral health in each of seven regions. The ACC provides the platform from which other health care initiatives can thrive as they better serve members and create value.

On Jan. 1, 2021, Health First Colorado, Colorado's Medicaid program, will expand its substance use disorder (SUD) benefit. Residential and inpatient treatment and withdrawal management services will be added to the Department's existing list of covered SUD services, giving members access to a full range of treatment options. The RAEs will be responsible for authorizing inpatient and residential substance use disorder treatments as part of administering Health First Colorado's capitated behavioral health benefit.

To prepare members, providers, and stakeholders for the launch of these new SUD services, the Department will be sending out weekly communications with updated guidance and other information.

The Department has developed the following guidance for inpatient and residential SUD providers to facilitate a smooth transition to Health First Colorado reimbursement for Health First Colorado members already in residential or inpatient treatment when the new benefit begins on Jan. 1, 2021.

SUD residential treatment providers are asked to do the following:

- Enroll as a provider with Health First Colorado.
  - Visit the [Provider Enrollment](#) webpage for more information about provider types
- Discuss with each RAE opportunities for establishing a contracting arrangement.
- Generate a list of **Health First Colorado members in treatment as of Dec. 11, 2020**, using the [Department's template](#). The list must contain the following information:
  1. Member Name
  2. Health First Colorado ID
  3. Treatment Provider (indicate whether Special Connections provider)
  4. Date of Admission
  5. Anticipated Date of Discharge
  6. Contact information for provider staff person
- Submit the member information from the numbered list above to the Managed Service Organizations **by Dec. 14, 2020**.
- Coordinate with the individual RAEs as they reach out to discuss treatment plans, support transitions to community-based services for appropriate members, and arrange for stays that will extend beyond Jan. 1 to be reviewed for continued stay authorizations.

- **Beginning Dec. 28, 2020**, submit continued stay authorization requests to the RAEs for all Health First Colorado members who will remain in inpatient or residential SUD treatment after Dec. 31, 2020.
  - All continued stay authorization requests must be received by the RAEs by **Jan. 15, 2021**, for members who began inpatient or residential SUD treatment prior to Jan. 1, 2021. Failure to submit continued stay authorization requests by Jan. 15, 2021, will jeopardize a provider's ability to receive reimbursement back to Jan. 1, 2021, for eligible members.

Providers must be enrolled with Health First Colorado in order to be eligible for reimbursement for services provided to Health First Colorado members.

Additional information will be posted within the next week to better support providers during this transition.

We encourage you to visit the [Ensuring a Full Continuum of SUD Benefits](#) webpage for the latest information.

Visit the ACC webpage

Ensuring A Full Continuum of SUD Benefits