



INFORMATIONAL MEMO

Title: Home and community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Hippotherapy Service Prior Authorization Requests (PARS) and Transition to State Plan Benefit	Topic: HCBS-Multiple
Audience: HCBS Waiver participants and families, Advocacy agencies, Regional Accountable Entity, Case Management Agencies, Case Managers, HCBS Providers	Sub-Topic: Health First Colorado Medicaid benefits
Supersedes Number: N/A	Division: Benefits and Services
Effective Date: June 30, 2024	Office: Office of Community Living
Expiration Date: June 30, 2025	Program Area: Home and Community-Based Services- Supported Living Services (SLS) waiver; Children’s Extensive Supports (CES) Waiver, Children’s Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) waiver.
Key Words: Hippotherapy, Prior Authorization Requests, PARS, Home and Community Based Services, HCBS, Case Management Agencies, CMAs, Supported Living Services (SLS) waiver, Children’s Extensive Supports (CES) Waiver, Children’s Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) waiver, State Plan Benefits	
Legal Authority: HB 22-1068	
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Issue Date: July 3, 2024	
Approved By: Candace Bailey	

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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver participants, families, advocates, Case Management Agencies (CMA’s), and case managers that effective, July 1, 2024, Hippotherapy services must be accessed through Health First Colorado (State Plan) Medicaid benefits and the

process to be followed to transition these services from HCBS waivers to the State Plan.

Information:

Hippotherapy services have historically been accessed through the Home and Community Based Services Children's Extensive Support (HCBS-CES), HCBS Children's Habilitation Residential Program (HCBS-CHRP), and HCBS Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS) waivers. Pursuant to House Bill 22-1068, "Medicaid Reimbursement for Therapy Using Equines," the Hippotherapy benefit is moving to the State Plan Medicaid benefits effective July 1, 2024. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) will end date all open, active HCBS-CES, HCBS-CHRP, and HCBS-SLS waiver Hippotherapy service Prior Authorization Requests (PARS) in the system effective June 30, 2024. Services with dates of service on or after July 1, 2024, will not be reimbursable on the waivers.

Action Needed:

HCPF has uploaded lists to each CMA SharePoint site of HCBS-CES, HCBS-CHRP, and HCBS-SLS members who have an approved Hippotherapy PAR.

- After July 1, 2024, each CMA should review the list uploaded to their CMA SharePoint site and instruct case managers to contact members to inform them that the service is being discontinued from the waiver and will be available through the State Plan Medicaid benefits.
 - If a CMA does not have a list uploaded on their SharePoint site that indicates that they have no members impacted by this change and no action is required by the CMA.
 - As Hippotherapy services are being made available through the State Plan Medicaid benefit, there is no Notice of Action required for current HCBS waiver PARs being ended.
- If a HCBS waiver participant wishes to receive Hippotherapy, they may:
 - [Use the Find a Doctor - Health First Colorado](#) webpage to find Medicaid enrolled providers.
 - Hippotherapy providers who are not Medicaid Enrolled Providers can receive assistance from HCPF to become Medicaid Enrolled Providers:

- **Ready for enrollment?** Review the [HCPF provider enrollment website](#).
- HCBS waiver members may request additional support by contacting their Regional Accountable Entity (RAE). The RAE's responsibilities include providing care coordination, connecting members with primary and behavioral health care, finding specialists, and to ensure Health First Colorado members receive quality care Find your RAE here: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/accphaseII>.

Attachment(s):

None

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