



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

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Frequently Asked Questions: New Substance Use Disorder Services Beginning January 1, 2021

January 2021 (updated 1/12/21)

On January 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 Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) will be responsible for administering the new services as part of Health First Colorado's capitated behavioral health benefit. Health First Colorado and the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health have adopted the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria to determine the most appropriate level of care for individuals requiring treatment for a substance use disorder.

What new SUD services will be available beginning January 1, 2021?

The new SUD services available January 1, 2021 are residential, inpatient and withdrawal management (WM) services at the ASAM levels 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, and 3.7, including 3.2 WM and 3.7 WM.

Will social detox services still be available to members?

Social detox services will now be available as ASAM Level 3.2 Withdrawal Management. These services will be billed using a single per diem code (HCPCS procedure code H0010). More details on billing requirements can be found in the [Provider Manual for Residential and Inpatient Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Services](#).

Will the contracts between RAEs and providers be in place by the January 1, 2021 go-live date for the benefit?

The benefit will go-live on January 1, 2021. Each RAE will have a contracted provider network spanning the full continuum of services. RAEs have been engaged with providers on contracting since early Fall and will work to finalize contracts by the go-live date. In

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instances where the contracting process with a provider extends beyond January 1, the RAEs are prepared to engage in single-case agreements to cover services while contracts are being finalized.

What is the plan for the transition of Medicaid clients in treatment on December 31, 2020 whose stays were being paid for by the Office of Behavioral Health before January 1, 2021?

Medicaid members who are receiving inpatient or residential treatment on December 31, 2020 will begin to have their treatment covered by Medicaid starting January 1, 2021. RAEs will be working with providers in their networks before the go-live date to prepare for those stays to transition to Medicaid reimbursement. Additional information can be found on the [Ensuring a Full Continuum of SUD Benefits](#) webpage.

What services are included in Medicaid treatment reimbursement?

The RAEs' per diem rates for inpatient, residential, and withdrawal management services cover all core components described in the ASAM criteria for each level of care. Examples of services that are core components of residential, inpatient, and withdrawal management SUD care include: individual SUD therapy, group SUD therapy, SUD assessments, case management, treatment planning, urine analysis administration and medical services at the higher levels of care. The RAEs will negotiate with providers individually to establish the per diem rates, potentially incorporating other services based on a provider's capabilities.

In unique circumstances, members may require additional services that are not covered in the negotiated per diem rate. Providers should contact the member's RAE for any services not included in the per diem rate.

Federal regulations prohibit Health First Colorado from paying for room and board in residential treatment settings. Residential and withdrawal management SUD providers must contract with the Managed Service Organization (MSO) that serves their region in order to receive reimbursement for room and board. More information about the MSOs and which regions they serve can be found on the [Find Behavioral Health Help web page](#).

Will members be charged a co-pay for the new SUD services?

No, there are no co-payments required for SUD services.

As an SUD provider, what do I need to do to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement?

All SUD providers that seek Medicaid reimbursement from a RAE for inpatient, residential and withdrawal management SUD services will need to:



1. Be licensed with the Office of Behavioral Health for the specific ASAM level of care that they will render and bill to Health First Colorado. (For information about licensing, visit the [OBH Designation and Licensing web page](#).)
2. Be enrolled with Health First Colorado (For information about provider enrollment, visit the [Find Your Provider Type web page](#).)
3. Add a Specialty Provider Type based on your ASAM level of care license to your current or new Medicaid provider enrollment.
 - a. **Existing providers must submit a Provider Maintenance Request** in the Provider Web Portal. (For information, visit the [Provider Maintenance Quick Guide](#).)
 - b. New providers can add the Specialty Provider Type as part of provider enrollment.
4. Contract with the RAE.

What ages are eligible for these services?

The full continuum of SUD services are now reflected in the State Plan. As of Jan 1, 2020, Medicaid members of all ages can access services in accordance with Medicaid rules. This means that any member can access covered SUD services in non-IMDs. Because of the IMD restriction that is part of Medicaid regulations, the State pursued the 1115 waiver. That waiver applies to members aged 21 and up. In addition to treatment in any appropriately licensed program that is not an IMD, members under 21 will continue to be able to access care through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment benefit (EPSDT) at Valley View hospital for SUD services.

Where can I find additional information about the new SUD services?

Below are links to additional resources regarding Health First Colorado's new inpatient and residential SUD treatment and withdrawal management services.

- [SUD Residential Provider Manual](#)
- www.colorado.gov/hcpf/ensuring-full-continuum-sud-benefits

For more information contact

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