

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment

Limit Orthodontia Coverage (SPA 15-028)

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after July 15, 2015, SPA 15-028 proposes to amend Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B of the Medicaid State Plan in order to revise the procedures for covering orthodontia services. Orthodontia services continue to be covered only for Medicaid members under age twenty-one. The Salzman Index is a scoring tool used to determine the level of misalignment of an individual's teeth. The minimum scoring limit for orthodontia services will be raised to a minimum Salzman Index score of 26 and higher (compared to the previous minimum score of 24 points and higher). With prior authorization based on medical necessity, orthodontia services will be approved for individuals with a Salzman Index score below 26. This change aligns Connecticut with other state Medicaid programs' minimum scoring requirements for orthodontia services.

Prior authorization of panoramic radiographs and diagnostic casts will be part of the case submission for review of the treatment request for orthodontia services. Panoramic radiographs and diagnostic cast will be covered only for clients with a Salzman Index of 24 points or higher. With prior authorization based on medical necessity, panoramic radiographs and diagnostic cast will be covered for individuals with a Salzman Index score below 24.

Public notice needs to be submitted at this time. Accordingly, this public notice reflects proposed changes that are currently available based on the state budget (Public Act 15-244) adopted by the General Assembly during the 2015 regular legislative session. However, this SPA is subject to change based on legislative adjustments that may occur in the upcoming special legislative session.

Fiscal Information

Based on the information that is currently available, the Department estimates that this SPA will reduce annual aggregate expenditures by approximately \$6.1 million in State Fiscal Year 2016 and \$6.1 million in State Fiscal Year 2017.

Information on Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

In accordance with federal Medicaid requirements, upon request, DSS will provide copies of the proposed SPA. Copies of the proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS regional office and on the DSS website: <http://www.ct.gov/dss>. Go to “Publications” and then “Updates”.

Written, phone, and email requests should be sent to Ginny Mahoney, Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105, Telephone: 860-424-5145, Email: ginny.mahoney@ct.gov. Please reference “SPA 15-028: Limit Orthodontia Coverage”. Written comments may be submitted in the same manner as requests no later than July 14, 2015.

State Connecticut

AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO CATEGORICALLY
NEEDY GROUP(S) ALL

- (10) For clients 21 years of age and older, resin based composite restorations to the molar teeth.
- (11) Orthodontia services will only be covered for clients under the age twenty-one (21).
 - (a) The Salzmann Index will be used to determine the level of misalignment of the client's teeth.
 - (1) The minimum scoring limit for orthodontia services will be twenty-six (26) points and higher.
 - (a) With prior authorization based on medical necessity, orthodontia services will be approved for clients who scored below the minimum score of twenty-six (26) points.
 - (b) Prior authorization of panoramic radiographs and diagnostic casts will be part of the case submission for review of the treatment request for orthodontia services.
 - (1) Panoramic radiographs and diagnostic cast will be covered only for clients with a Salzmann Index of twenty-four (24) points or higher.
- (2) With prior authorization based on medical necessity, panoramic radiographs and diagnostic cast will be covered for clients with a Salzmann Index score below twenty-four (24) points.
- (12) Any procedure or service of an unproven, experimental or research nature.

State Connecticut

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