

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### **Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Amendment to Alternative Benefit Plan for the Medicaid Coverage Group for Low-Income Adults**

#### **Expansion of Coverage of Licensed Behavioral Health Clinician Services to Medicaid Members Age Twenty-One and Older (SPA 14-028)**

Pursuant to section 220 of House Bill 5597 of the 2014 legislative session, the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following amendment to the Medicaid State Plan to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which will amend: (1) Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B of the Medicaid State Plan and (2) the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) approved as Attachment 3.1-L of the Medicaid State Plan.

The ABP is the benefit package that, effective January 1, 2014, is being provided to the Medicaid low-income adult population under Section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Social Security Act (also known as the HUSKY D coverage groups). Pursuant to section 2001 of the Affordable Care Act, effective January 1, 2014, Connecticut expanded Medicaid eligibility to low-income adults with incomes up to and including 133% of the federal poverty level. The expanded coverage group is referred to as Medicaid Coverage for the Lowest-Income Populations.

#### **Changes to Medicaid State Plan and Alternative Benefit Plan**

Effective on or after July 1, 2014, this SPA will amend Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B of the Medicaid State Plan and the ABP (Attachment 3.1-L of the Medicaid State Plan) to expand coverage for licensed behavioral health clinician services provided by independent practitioners (licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marital and family therapists, licensed alcohol and drug counselors, and licensed professional counselors) to Medicaid members age twenty-one and older. The State Plan and the ABP both currently limit such coverage to Medicaid members under age twenty-one. This coverage is being expanded in order to provide broader access to behavioral health services provided by independent licensed clinicians, which is likely to result in better and more cost-effective care, increased member choice of behavioral health providers, and expansion of the network of behavioral health clinicians participating in Medicaid.

In addition, in order to ensure that services performed by behavioral health clinicians in independent practice are covered only when performed by licensed clinicians, this SPA removes services provided by certified alcohol and drug counselors in independent practice as a covered service from Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B of the Medicaid State Plan and from the ABP (Attachment 3.1-L of the Medicaid State Plan).

This SPA will not make any other changes to the ABP. Accordingly, the ABP will continue to provide full access to EPSDT services to beneficiaries under age twenty-one. This includes informing them that EPSDT services are available and of the need for age-appropriate immunizations. The ABP also provides or arranges for the provision of screening services for all children and for corrective treatment as determined by child health screenings. These EPSDT services are provided by the Department's fee-for-service provider network. EPSDT clients are also able to receive any additional health care services that are coverable under the

Medicaid program and found to be medically necessary to treat, correct or reduce illnesses and conditions discovered regardless of whether the service is covered in Connecticut's state plan.

Likewise, this SPA will not make any changes to cost sharing for the services provided under the ABP. Connecticut does not currently impose cost sharing on Medicaid beneficiaries. Because there are no Medicaid cost sharing requirements for Connecticut beneficiaries, no exemptions are necessary in order to comply with the cost sharing protections for Native Americans found in section 5006(e) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

### **Fiscal Information**

DSS anticipates that the portion of this proposal that proposes to amend Attachments 3.1-A and 3.1-B of the State Plan will result in an increase in Medicaid annual aggregate expenditures of approximately \$11,305,000 in State Fiscal Year 2015 and \$11,882,000 in State Fiscal Year 2016.

DSS anticipates that the portion of this proposal that proposes to amend the ABP (Attachment 3.1-L of the State Plan) will result in an increase in Medicaid annual aggregate expenditures of approximately \$407,000 in State Fiscal Year 2015 and \$465,000 in State Fiscal Year 2016.

### **Information on Obtaining SPA Language and Submission of 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 each of the DSS regional offices and on the DSS web site: <http://www.ct.gov/dss>. Go to "Publications" and then "Updates".

Written, phone, and email requests should be directed to Ginny Mahoney, Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 25 Sigourney Street, 11th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106-5033 (Phone: 860-424-5145, Fax: 860-424-5799, Email: [ginny.mahoney@ct.gov](mailto:ginny.mahoney@ct.gov)). Please reference "SPA 14-028: Licensed Behavioral Health Clinicians Services Coverage for Adults".

Members of the public may also send DSS written comments concerning the proposed change. Written comments must be received at the above contact information within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the Connecticut Law Journal.

State: CONNECTICUT

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

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- c. Chiropractor Services – Not Covered
  
- d. Psychologist Services
  - i Psychologists must be licensed under Chapter 383, Section 20-186 through 195 of the Connecticut General Statutes
  
  - ii Services are limited to routine diagnostic, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or palliative services or psychological testing and within a psychologist’s scope of practice. Services are also subject to limitations set forth in Sections 17b-262-467 through 478 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and the applicable published fee schedule.
  
- e. Naturopathic Services
  - i Naturopaths must be licensed pursuant to Chapter 373 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), Section 20-34 through 20-42.
  
  - ii The Department will pay enrolled naturopaths only for services provided to individuals under twenty-one (21) years of age.
  
  - iii Services are limited to a naturopath’s scope of practice and as set forth in Sections 17b-262-547 through 558 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and the applicable published fee schedule.

**TN# 14-028**  
**Supersedes**  
**TN# 13-006**

**Approval Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective Date: 07-01-2014**

[Note: *Intervening pages intentionally omitted because they are not affected by SPA 14-028.*]

**State: CONNECTICUT**

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

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**h. Licensed Clinical Social Worker Services**

- i** Clinical social workers must be licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) (a) after (i) completing a doctorate or master's degree in a social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or a program outside the United States deemed equivalent by the Council on Social Work Education, (ii) complete 3,000 hours of post-master's social work experience, including at least 100 hours under supervision by a licensed clinical or certified independent social worker, with such hours completed in Connecticut as a licensed master social worker, (iii) pass the clinical level examination of the Association of Social Work Boards or any other examination prescribed by DPH or (b) without meeting the above requirements if the individual is licensed or certified as a clinical social worker in another jurisdiction whose requirements are substantially similar or higher than Connecticut's requirements and who has also passed the clinical level examination of the Association of Social Work Boards or any examination prescribed by DPH.
- ii** Services are provided under the benefit category of 42 C.F.R. § 440.60, other practitioners, and include routine diagnostic, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or palliative services provided to individuals with a behavioral health disorder, within a licensed clinical social worker's scope of practice and as set forth on the applicable published fee schedule.

**i. Licensed Marital and Family Therapists Services**

- i** Marital and family therapists must be licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) (a) after (i) completing a graduate degree program in marital and family therapy from a regionally accredited college or university or an accredited postgraduate clinical training program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and recognized by the U.S.

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Department of Education, (ii) completing a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis on marital and family therapy supervised by the program granting the degree or by an accredited postgraduate clinical training program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with at least 500 clinical hours, including 100 hours of clinical supervision, (iii) complete at least twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience after being awarded a master's or doctorate or the training specified in (ii) and including at least 1,000 hours of direct client contact offering marital and family therapy and 100 hours of postgraduate clinical supervision by a licensed marital and family therapy, and (iv) passed an examination prescribed by DPH or (b) without taking the examination if the individual is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist in another jurisdiction whose standards, in DPH's opinion, are equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's standards. However, an individual licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist in another jurisdiction whose standards are not equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's standards may substitute five years of licensed or certified work experience in the practice of marital and family therapy in lieu of the requirements of (a)(ii) and (iii) above.

- ii Services are provided under the benefit category of 42 C.F.R. § 440.60, other practitioners, and include routine diagnostic, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or palliative services provided to individuals with a behavioral health disorder, within a licensed marital and family therapist's scope of practice and as set forth on the applicable published fee schedule.

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j. Licensed Professional Counselor Services.

- i Professional counselors must be licensed under Chapter 376b, Section 20-74s through 74t of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- ii Services include routine diagnostic, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or palliative services provided to individuals with a behavioral health disorder, within a licensed professional counselor's scope of practice, and as set forth on the applicable published fee schedule.

k. Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor Services.

- i Alcohol and drug counselors must be licensed under Chapter 383c, Section 20-195aa through 195cc of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- ii Services include routine diagnostic, assessment, treatment, rehabilitation or palliative services provided to individuals with a behavioral health disorder, within a licensed alcohol and drug counselor's scope of practice, and as set forth on the applicable published fee schedule.

**TN# 14-028  
Supersedes  
TN# 07-013**

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Marriage and Family Therapy Education and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, (ii) completing a supervised practicum or internship with emphasis on marital and family therapy supervised by the program granting the degree or by an accredited postgraduate clinical training program approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with at least 500 clinical hours, including 100 hours of clinical supervision, (iii) complete at least twelve months of relevant postgraduate experience after being awarded a master's or doctorate or the training specified in (ii) and including at least 1,000 hours of direct client contact offering marital and family therapy and 100 hours of postgraduate clinical supervision by a licensed marital and family therapy, and (iv) passed an examination prescribed by DPH or (b) without taking the examination if the individual is currently licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist in another jurisdiction whose standards, in DPH's opinion, are equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's standards. However, an individual licensed or certified as a marital or marriage and family therapist in another jurisdiction whose standards are not equivalent to or higher than Connecticut's standards may substitute five years of licensed or certified work experience in the practice of marital and family therapy in lieu of the requirements of (a)(ii) and (iii) above.

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**TN# 14-028  
Supersedes  
TN# 07-013**

**Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Effective Date: 07-01-2014**



# Alternative Benefit Plan

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Authorization: <input type="text" value="Other"/>	Provider Qualifications: <input type="text" value="Medicaid State Plan"/>	
Amount Limit: <input type="text" value="None"/>	Duration Limit: <input type="text" value="None"/>	
Scope Limit: <input type="text" value="Only for clients under age 21"/>		
Other: <input type="text" value="Registration required"/>		
Other 1937 Benefit Provided: <input type="text" value="Other Practitioner: Licensed &lt;del&gt;or Certified&lt;/del&gt; ADC Svs"/>	Source: Section 1937 Coverage Option Benchmark Benefit Package	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>
Authorization: <input type="text" value="Other"/>	Provider Qualifications: <input type="text" value="Medicaid State Plan"/>	
Amount Limit: <input type="text" value="None"/>	Duration Limit: <input type="text" value="None"/>	
Scope Limit: <input type="text" value="Only for clients under age 21"/>		
Other: <input type="text" value="- Other Practitioner: Licensed &lt;del&gt;or Certified&lt;/del&gt; Alcohol and Drug Counselor Services&lt;br/&gt;- Registration required"/>		
Other 1937 Benefit Provided: <input type="text" value="Other Pract: Licensed Marital &amp; Family Therapist"/>	Source: Section 1937 Coverage Option Benchmark Benefit Package	
Authorization: <input type="text"/>	Provider Qualifications: <input type="text" value="Medicaid State Plan"/>	
Amount Limit: <input type="text" value="None"/>	Duration Limit: <input type="text" value="None"/>	
Scope Limit: <input type="text" value="Only for clients under age 21"/>		



# Alternative Benefit Plan

Other: Registration required		Remove
Other 1937 Benefit Provided: Other Practitioner: Psychologist	Source: Section 1937 Coverage Option Benchmark Benefit Package	Remove
Authorization: 	Provider Qualifications: Medicaid State Plan	
Amount Limit: None	Duration Limit: None	
Scope Limit: <del>Only for clients under age 21</del>		
Other: Registration required		
Other 1937 Benefit Provided: Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Source: Section 1937 Coverage Option Benchmark Benefit Package	Remove
Authorization: 	Provider Qualifications: Medicaid State Plan	
Amount Limit: 	Duration Limit: 	
Scope Limit: <del>Only for clients under 21</del>		
Other: Registration required.		
Add		