

Public Announcement

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is filing Vermont Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) #15-023 to allow licensed dental hygienists to directly bill for services provided, when working under a collaborative agreement with a licensed Vermont dentist, effective September 4, 2015. The DVHA proposes to enroll dental hygienists as providers in order to increase access to preventive dental services for Medicaid beneficiaries across the state. These dental hygienists can also provide “place-based” care in areas of the State where residents may have difficulty obtaining care in traditional dental practice settings. Services provided by licensed dental hygienists will also be included in the Medicaid Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the New Adult Group under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This amendment to the ABP will be effective September 4, 2015 under SPA #15-009. The ABP replicates the full Medicaid State plan, and includes the 10 essential health benefits required under the ACA, as well as the full range of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for individuals under the age of 21. The fiscal impact of this amendment is an estimated annualized increase of \$64,848.73

The Medicaid State Plan is being changed because it is one of the documents that providers rely upon for notice of payment methodologies and rates made by the DVHA. The State Plan is also the guiding document for changes applicable to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The methodology changes in this Announcement will also apply to the Global Commitment (GC) to Health Waiver population. Changes to the GC population are being made pursuant to the flexibility authorized under the GC Waiver, specific to Sections 1902(a)(13) and 1902(a)(30) of the Social Security Act, which allows the State, through DVHA, to establish rates with providers on an individual or class basis without regard to the rates currently set forth in the approved State Plan. The GC Waiver can be viewed at: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/global-commitment-to-health-1115-waiver-2015-documents>.

The draft SPAs provide additional details on the proposed changes; copies of the draft SPAs can be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from DVHA at (802) 879-5937, or can be found on the DVHA website: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/draft-versions-of-state-plan-changes>

Submit written comments to AHS Medicaid Policy, 208 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495, or submit via e-mail to AHS.Medicaidpolicy@vermont.gov. Comments must be received no later than 4:00 pm on September 30, 2015. Please reference the SPA number for which you are commenting. The DVHA hopes to post all comments received to the DVHA website for viewing no later than 4:00 pm on October 7, 2015. There is no public meeting scheduled at this time. If one should be scheduled, that information can be found at: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/> either through the calendar or listed under upcoming events.