

Public Announcement

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is filing Vermont Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) #15-021 to allow licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors (LADCs) acting within their scope of practice to participate as Medicaid providers, effective October 1, 2015. Pursuant to Act 59 of the 2014-2015 Vermont Legislative Session, the DVHA shall reimburse LADCs for delivery of clinical services to Medicaid beneficiaries consistent with federal law and the Vermont Medicaid State Plan, regardless of whether the counselor works for a preferred network. Rates for services provided by LADCs are based on the DVHA's Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) methodology and set as of October 1, 2015. The DVHA sets rates based on the Medicare Relative Value Units with DVHA-specific Conversion Factors. The fiscal impact of this amendment is an estimated annualized increase of \$159,549.

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 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 18, 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 4:00pm on October 2, 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.