

MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, November 19, 2020
TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Maryland Department of Health

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be held through GoToWebinar only.

Please register for MMAC Meeting on Nov 19, 2020 1:00 PM EST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8081023846813750800>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Those who would like to make public comment should email Claire Gregory at, Claire.gregory@maryland.gov or use the question feature to submit questions to the host.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER MEETING

AGENDA

- I. Departmental Report
- II. HealthChoice Quality
- III. PACE - CMMI LTSS
- IV. Update on MOM Grant
- V. Waiver, State Plan and Regulations Changes
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**Staff Contact: Ms. Claire Gregory - (410) 767-5814
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**MARYLAND MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

October 22, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Shannon Hall
Ms. Robin Moore
Ms. Linda Dietsch
Rachel Dodge, M.D.
Winifred Booker, D.D.S
The Hon. Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Mr. Kenneth Garove
Ms. Marie McLendon
Mr. Ben Steffen
Mr. William Webb
Mr. Floyd Hartley
Ms. Nicole McCann
Mr. Paul Miller
Ms. Diane McComb
Ms. Jessica Dickerson
The Hon. Pat Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

The Hon. Antonio Hayes
The Hon. Matthew Morgan
Kathryn Fiddler, DNP
Ms. Maansi Raswant
Ms. Vickie Walters
Mr. Vincent DeMarco
Adeteju Ogunrinde, M.D
Ms. Anna Sierra

Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee

October 22, 2020

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nicole McCann, Interim Chair, called to order the meeting of the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee (MMAC) at 1:20 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes from the September 24, 2020 meeting as written.

Departmental Report and COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Tricia Roddy, Assistant Medicaid Director, provided the Committee with a combined Departmental report and COVID-19 update.

Ms. Roddy gave the Committee an update on Medicaid total enrollment the Department is tracking on a weekly basis. We have now hit the 1.5 million enrolled mark with a continued steady increase (see attached chart).

All nine Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) have signed contracts for calendar year 2021. CareFirst has purchased the University of Maryland Health Plan, and we are in the process of working on the operational transition plan that includes the name change on the Maryland Health Exchange, notifying enrollees, etc. It should be an easy transition as they have kept all of the same operations as well as many of the key personnel from the University of Maryland Health Plan. You will see CareFirst participating in Departmental meetings and processes going forward.

The Department has placed on its website guidance for how pharmacists can be reimbursed for vaccines. The federal government has passed language that requires states to allow pharmacists to provide vaccines to children ages 3 and older during the federal public health emergency. We gave guidance for how the Medicaid fee-for-service program will be reimbursing pharmacists for vaccines. We have also been working with our MCOs to make sure that they have a reimbursement model in place by November 1, 2020. The Department is thinking through how the reimbursement model will work when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available for the mass population. It is our understanding that the federal government will be reimbursing the cost of the vaccine, and we are evaluating if providers will be allowed to bill an administration fee in the Medicaid Program, similar to how we reimburse providers when we receive vaccines free through the Vaccines for Children Program.

The Maryland Health Care Commission has gathered a very comprehensive group to talk about telehealth. The Workgroup is reviewing what has been happening with telehealth during the pandemic, and beginning discussions on how telehealth should look after the pandemic. The group consists of a wide range of providers with representation from the Medicaid Program as well as commercial carriers. The Department is actively participating in those discussions.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did provide some updated telehealth guidance. CMS highlights the coordination of benefits and how the coverage of telehealth will work when coordinating benefits. It is clear, based on CMS' guidance, the importance of aligning telehealth policies across payers (Commercial, Medicare and Medicaid). CMS does allow states to set different payment rates for the provision of telehealth, and we are looking very closely at how telehealth should be reimbursed in the future. The CMS guidelines point out the Office of Civil Rights' non-enforcement policy of non-HIPAA compliant technology during the pandemic, and they do mention audio-only telehealth services will be contingent upon continuing this non-enforcement policy with the Office of Civil Rights.

The Department recently received a letter from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists informing us about the new screening for fetal chromosomal abnormalities and is encouraging us to build the recommendations into the Medicaid Program. We are actively looking at this and coordinating with our Public Health officials and determining what changes need to occur within the Medicaid Program with regards to these new recommendations.

Prescriber/Provider Enrollment

Ms. Molly Marra, Director, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee an overview of the COVID-19 flexibilities put into place for providers, reviewed a new tool (Provider Verification System) and prescriber enrollment (see attached presentation).

OOCC Crisis Service Grant

Ms. Elizabeth Kasameyer, Administrator, Office of Innovation, Research and Development, gave the Committee an overview of a grant Medicaid was awarded from the Opioid Operational Command Center (see attached presentation).

EMS Public Certified Expenditures

Ms. Elizabeth Kasameyer gave the Committee highlights of a new State Plan that Maryland is submitting to CMS entitled Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program (see attached presentation). This program has been approved in other states and the Department believes there is a good likelihood that it will be approved in Maryland. The Department may be required to make some changes to our state plan amendment but sees this as a real opportunity to increase provider rates for emergency medical transporters at a time when the fiscal environment is very tight. This is an opportunity to bring more federal dollars into the state without increasing the state funds.

Waiver, State Plan and Regulation Changes

Ms. Nina McHugh, Medicaid Provider Services, gave the Committee a status update on waivers, regulations and state plan amendment changes.

Regulations – The Family Planning Program regulations are due to print tomorrow and the pharmacy services, urgent care centers, home health, pharmacists, HealthChoice VBP, and general provider regulations are all scheduled to print on November 6, 2020.

State Plan Amendments (SPAs) – The home health updates were approved as of September 23, 2020 by CMS. New submissions include: 1915i, DDA-TCM, and DME & Oxygen Rate Decreases which all have an effective date of July 1, 2020.

Announcement

The Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and MedChi are pleased to announce a new webinar series, ***BHA/MedChi Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve***, starting on Thursday, October 29 at 5:00 p.m.

These webinars are for Maryland’s community and hospital health care workers of all disciplines. They are designed to enhance both health care worker self-care and resultantly the care they provide, as health care workers combat numerous stressors including the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice issues, and other stressors that can potentially impact delivered care.

CMEs will be available at no cost, as will Participant Certificates, which for other disciplines can qualify for continuing education credit.

Public Comments

Ms. Chara Bauer, Maryland Hepatitis Coalition, made public comment on Hepatitis and the work of the coalition.

Ms. Ashley Black, Public Justice Center, made public comments on Hepatitis C treatment denials.

Ms. Suzanne Schlattman, Health Care for All, gave public comment on the Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program.

Rachel Dodge, M.D., expressed concerns with the use of rapid COVID testing by urgent care centers.

Adjournment

Ms. McCann adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.