

Substance Use Disorder Demonstration

Frequently Asked Questions

The Section 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) demonstration waiver will allow Nebraska Medicaid to continue covering SUD residential services in Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs) for Medicaid-enrolled adults ages 21-64. The main goals of the demonstration are to increase access to and improve quality of services while maintaining or reducing costs.

Q: What is a Section 1115 Waiver?

A: An 1115 waiver is a program approved by the federal government that allows states to waive some federal Medicaid rules to demonstrate new and innovative ways to administer their Medicaid program.

Q: What is included in the Section 1115 SUD Waiver?

A: This waiver allows coverage of SUD services in IMDs for Medicaid beneficiaries and provides access to Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management and Opioid Treatment Program via Medicaid State Plan Amendments. The demonstration requires providers to assess treatment needs and provide care coordination utilizing evidence-based SUD-specific criteria, such as American Society of Addiction Medicine level of care. Additionally, residential treatment providers are required to provide medication-assisted treatment on-site and facilitate off-site dispensing.

Q: When will the waiver begin?

A: The demonstration waiver program began July 1, 2019, and is approved through June 30, 2024. DHHS has the option to apply for a 5-year renewal during the final year of the demonstration.

Q: Why did Nebraska create this program?

A: Nebraska created this program to address the growing need for SUD services and improve the continuum of care for Medicaid beneficiaries. Additionally, Nebraska Medicaid created this demonstration to address federal Medicaid regulations that limited SUD services in residential treatment facilities that directly affected the health of Nebraskans struggling with SUD.

Q. How does the SUD demonstration address federal Medicaid IMD limits?

A: Federal regulations limit stays in IMDs for adults 21-64 to 15 days or fewer. The SUD demonstration program allows Nebraska Medicaid to cover stays longer than 15 days for these individuals.

Q: Who will benefit from this program?

A: Nebraska Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorders and the providers that treat these individuals.

Q: Will this impact current Medicaid eligibility?

A: No, the 1115 SUD Waiver has no impact on Medicaid eligibility.

Q: Does the SUD demonstration cover additional SUD services?

A: Yes, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved two State Plan Amendments on October 30, 2020: Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) and Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management (MMIW). Opioid Treatment Programs provide access to medication-assisted treatment, counseling, and other behavioral therapies for treatment of opioid use disorder. MMIW provides medical services for managing detoxification and substance use disorder treatment.

Q: Do these additional SUD services go away after the demonstration ends?

A: No, OTP and MMIW services are covered under the Medicaid State Plan and can continue even if the demonstration ends.

Q: How does the SUD demonstration impact provider capacity and access?

A: Previously, reimbursement was not allowable in substance use treatment facilities with more than 16 beds. The SUD demonstration provides reimbursement for facilities with more than 16 beds.