

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 23-35

**TO:** All Interested Parties

**FROM:** Melisa Byrd  
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

**DATE:** August 18, 2023

**SUBJECT: Public Notice of Submission of State Plan Amendment – Autism Spectrum Disorder**

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide public notice of the submission of a State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for review and approval.

**Details**

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) hereby gives notice of the submission of amendments to the District of Columbia State Plan for Medical Assistance (State Plan) to CMS for review and approval. The proposed amendments add coverage of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for children and youth. The amendments also update the reimbursement methodology for ASD services and allow the District's Medicaid program to reimburse additional provider types and services that are delivered to children under the age of twenty-one (21) who are in need of ASD services under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services benefit. Specifically, the amendments would allow reimbursement for: (1) screening; (2) diagnostic evaluations; (3) treatment planning; and (4) ASD treatment services that are identified in a treatment plan (or plan of care if services are delivered through a home health agency), including applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy, psychological services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology and audiology services. The proposed effective date of the changes is October 1, 2023.

Pursuant to Federal regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, a state must provide public notice of any significant change in the state's methods and standards for setting payment rates for services, prior to the proposed effective dates in the State Plan amendments submitted to CMS. DHCF will provide a comprehensive listing of all changes to the rates on the DC Medicaid website at <http://www.dc-medicaid.com>.

As a result of the addition of this new service and the change in ACT reimbursement methodology, DHCF projects a total increase in federal Medicaid expenditures of approximately \$3,368,317.00 in Fiscal Year 2024. DHCF also projects a total increase in federal Medicaid expenditures of approximately \$3,425,578 in Fiscal Year 2025.

**Contact**

If you have any questions, contact Amy Xing, Reimbursement Analyst, Office of Rates, Reimbursement, and Financial Analysis, Department of Health Care Finance at [amy.xing2@dc.gov](mailto:amy.xing2@dc.gov).

**Cc:** DC Behavioral Health Association  
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers  
DC Health Care Association  
DC Home Health Association  
DC Hospital Association  
DC Primary Care Association  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia