

Table of Contents

State/Territory Name: New Jersey

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 26-0002

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) Form CMS-179
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
601 E. 12th St., Room 355
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

July 24, 2026

Gregory Woods
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
P.O. Box 712, Mail Code #26
Trenton, NJ 08625-0712

Re: New Jersey State Plan Amendment (SPA) - 26-0002

Dear Director Woods:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 26-0002. This amendment adds Community Palliative Care services to the preventive services benefit.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations, including 42 C.F.R. Section §440.130(c). This letter informs you that New Jersey's Medicaid SPA TN-26-0002 was approved on July 24, 2026, with an effective date of April 1, 2026.

Enclosed are copies of the Form CMS-179 and approved SPA pages to be incorporated into the New Jersey State Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Guess at (312) 353-1787 or via email at Nicole.Guess@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Falecia M. Smith.

Falecia M. Smith
Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

cc: Gregory Woods
Julie Hubbs
Nicole Guess

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2 6 — 0 0 0 2

2. STATE

N J3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT

XIX



XXI

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

April 1, 2026

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

42 C.F.R. Section 440.130(c)

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY 2026 \$ 0b. FFY 2027 \$ 0

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

Addendum to Attachment 3.1 A Page 13(c)(2l), and (2m),
(2n),(2o), (2p), (2q), and (2r) (NEW)

Addendum to Attachment 3.1 B Page 13(c)(2c4) (NEW)

Addendum to Attachment 4.19B Page 28.9 (NEW)

Attachment 4.19-B Page 36

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

Attachment 4.19-B Page 36 (TN-26-0002) (TN-26-0001)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT



COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED



NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL



OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:

AGENCY OFFICIAL

Stephen Cha, MD, MHSR

13. TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Human Services

14. DATE SUBMITTED

04/29/2026

15. RETURN TO

Gregory Woods, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
P.O. Box 712, Mail Code #26
Trenton, NJ 08625-0712**FOR CMS USE ONLY**

16. DATE RECEIVED

04/29/2026

17. DATE APPROVED

07/24/2026

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

04/01/2026

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Falecia M. Smith

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

7-21-2026: New Jersey authorizes a pen and ink change to Box 7 to add remaining attachments to list them as NEW and SPA page
Attachment 4.19-B Page 36. Box 8 added Attachment 4.19-B Page 36 with TN-26-0001.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family. Community Palliative Care is provided in non-hospital and community settings across the continuum of care.

Palliative care is based on the needs of the patient, not on the patient's prognosis. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and it can be provided along with curative treatment.

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. Section 440.130(c), Community Palliative Care services are provided as preventive services and must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within his or her scope of practice under state law to prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression; prolong life; and/or promote the physical and mental health of the beneficiary.

Service Description:

The Community Palliative Care benefit includes, but is not limited to, the following services:

- I. Comprehensive assessment for eligibility and referral to services;
- II. Care plan development and implementation that is aligned with patient and family goals;
- III. Clinical services provided through an interdisciplinary team;
- IV. Comprehensive management;
- V. Care coordination and communication;
- VI. Assessment of caregiver needs / capabilities and caregiver support.
- VII. Advance care planning and discussion of treatment options appropriate to the patient, including hospice care, when appropriate.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care (cont'd)

The specific services are provided based on medical necessity. Services furnished to the beneficiary's family or other collaterals are for the direct benefit of the beneficiary.

Qualified Provider Specifications:

Palliative care is provided by individual healthcare providers and provider entities that are legally authorized to deliver healthcare services by the State of New Jersey. Qualified individuals must be a Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare provider or work for a Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare provider.

Palliative care is provided by a team of healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals with a range of skills to treat individuals with serious illnesses. Members of the team include the following disciplines: Physician; Registered Nurse; Chaplain; Child Life Specialist (pediatric members only); and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The Licensed Clinical Social Worker may be substituted by a Licensed Professional Counselor or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Other professionals rendering services as needed may include the following disciplines: Nurse Practitioner; Physician Assistant; Licensed Practical Nurse; Licensed Vocational Nurse; Certified Nursing Assistant; Home Health Aide; Community Health Worker; Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Master's Level Social Worker; Licensed Professional Counselor; Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

The following required members of the palliative care interdisciplinary team are required to hold certification or training in palliative care: Physician; Registered Nurse; Child Life Specialist (pediatric members only); and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. The Chaplain must demonstrate palliative care training only when the entity's Medicare-certified hospice status is used as the basis for the Chaplain's practitioner qualifications.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care (cont'd)

By the third year of participation in the program, the provider entity will be required to hold community-based palliative care certification from one of three nationally-recognized bodies – The Joint Commission (TJC), Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP).

See below for additional detail on requirements for non-licensed providers (Chaplain, Child Life Specialist, Community Health Worker, and Certified Nursing Assistant):

- **Chaplain:** May demonstrate certification either via individual or entity-level credentials:
 - Acceptable individual credentials:
 - Level II Clinical Pastoral Education OR
 - Board Certified Chaplain (BCC)
 - Acceptable entity-level certification options:
 - Medicare hospice certification
 - Community-Based Palliative Care certification
- **Child Life Specialist:**
 - Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) credential
- **Community Health Worker:**
 - Demonstrated CHW training completion and at least 6 months of experience
- **Certified Nursing Assistant:**
 - CNA certification issued by the New Jersey Department of Health

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care (cont'd)

A designated Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant provides supervision and oversight to the interdisciplinary care team.

Community-Based Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) – Details

#	IDT member	Brief Description of Services Performed	Scope of practice	Minimum qualifications	Adult and/or Pediatric Care	Required or optional member of the IDT
1	Physician	Provides direct clinical care and oversight of patient care	Legally authorized to practice medicine or osteopathy by the State and acts within the scope of their license	Licensed physician (MD or DO); demonstrate certification or training in palliative care or related field	Adult and pediatric	Required
2	Registered Nurse	Provides and coordinates patient care and educates patients about their health	Legally authorized to provide nursing care by the State and acts within the scope of license	Licensed to provide services; must demonstrate certification or training in palliative care or related field	Adult and pediatric	Required
3	Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)	Engages patients and structures to address life challenges and enhances wellbeing	Legally authorized to provide clinical social work services, mental health supports and assessments, behavioral interventions, and/or counseling by the state and acts within their scope of license	Licensed to provide services; must demonstrate certification or training in palliative care or related field	Adult and pediatric	Required

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care (cont'd)

#	IDT member	Brief Description of Services Performed	Scope of practice	Minimum qualifications	Adult and/or Pediatric Care	Required or optional member of the IDT
4	Chaplain	Supports the spiritual, existential, and emotional needs of the patient and their caregivers, regardless of religious affiliation or belief system	Chaplaincy care commensurate with the needs, desires, and voluntary consent of the beneficiary	May demonstrate certification either via individual or entity-level credentials: Acceptable individual credentials: - Level II Clinical Pastoral Education OR - Board Certified Chaplain (BCC) Acceptable entity-level certification options: - Medicare hospice certification - Community-Based Palliative Care certification	Adult and pediatric	Required
5	Child Life Specialist	Supports children and their caregivers to help them cope with the challenges of illness and disability; provides children with age-appropriate coping strategies, play and self-expression activities, etc.	Accountable for the planning and implementation of child life services	Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) credential; must demonstrate training in palliative care or related field	Pediatric only	Required

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care (cont'd)

#	IDT member	Brief Description of Services Performed	Scope of practice	Minimum qualifications	Adult and/or Pediatric Care	Required or optional member of the IDT
6	Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA)	Diagnose and treat a wide variety of medical concerns	Legally authorized to provide services by the State and acts within their scope of license	Licensed to provide services	Adult and pediatric	Optional
7	Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN)	Conduct focused nursing assessments, administer medications, maintain patient care records, and collaborate with other healthcare professionals	Provide basic medical care under the direction of registered nurses, advance practice registered nurses, physicians, and other healthcare professionals	Licensed to provide services	Adult and pediatric	Optional
8	Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or Home Health Aide (HHA)	Assist patients with activities of daily living such as grooming, bathing, and eating, while working under direct supervision of a licensed healthcare professional	Legally authorized to provide services by the State and acts within their scope of license	CNA: Certification issued by the NJ Department of Health HHA: Licensed to provide services	Adult and pediatric	Optional
9	Community Health Worker (CHW)	Serves as a liaison / link / intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery	Outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, advocacy	Demonstrated CHW training completion and at least 6 months of experience	Adult and pediatric	Optional
10	Master's Level Social Worker (MSW)	Provides macro-, mezzo-, and micro-aspects of professional social work practice	Legally authorized to provide services by the State and acts within their scope of license	Licensed to provide services	Adult and pediatric	Optional

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services Provided to the Categorically Needy

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care (cont'd)

Freedom of Choice

The State assures that the provision of Community Palliative Care services will not restrict an individual's free choice of providers as described in Section 1902(a)(23) of the Act.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
Limitations on Amount, Duration and Scope of Services
Provided to Medically Needy Groups
PREGNANT WOMEN, DEPENDENT CHILDREN, AND THE AGED, BLIND, OR
DISABLED

13(c) Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care

Community Palliative Care services for Medically Needy Groups are identical to Community Palliative Care for the Categorically Needy, as set forth in Addendum to Attachment 3.1-A (13)(c)(2l) through (2r).

**STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES FOR NON INSTITUTIONAL
SERVICES**

Reimbursement for Preventive Services: Community Palliative Care Services

The reimbursement methodology, called the Community Palliative Care Service Bundle, is based on bundled rate(s) established by the State. The bundled payment unit(s) are monthly.

The provider that meets the Qualifications of Providers criteria is allowed to bill for the service bundle. Only one provider is allowed to receive the bundled payment per beneficiary.

At least one of the services in the bundle payment must be provided within the service payment unit in order for a provider to bill the bundled rate. Prepayment for the bundled rate is not allowed.

The bundled rate(s) does not include costs related to room and board or other unallowed facility costs if the services are provided in residential settings.

The State will periodically monitor the actual provision of services paid under the bundled rate(s) to ensure the beneficiaries receive the types, quantity, and intensity of services required to meet their medical needs and to ensure the rates remain economic and efficient based on the services that are actually provided as a part of the bundle.

The bundled rate(s) and billing codes are located in the New Jersey Medicaid Fee Schedule. Other services may be covered that are billed separately from the bundled rate(s) such as initial assessments and reassessments and are located in the New Jersey Medicaid Fee Schedule.

The effective date, the applicable fee schedules, and link to their electronic publication, can be found on page 36 of Attachment 4.19-B of the State Plan. The rates are the same for both governmental and private providers. All applicable procedure code listings and/or rates are published on the State's website at www.njmmis.com under the link for "Rates and Code Information" and Medicaid fee for services sections.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES FOR NON-
INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE DATES AND LINKS

Except where noted otherwise, the fees in the State's fee schedules referenced in Attachment 4.19-B below were set on April 1, 2026 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of the Medicaid services listed below. Services for both ABP and non-ABP beneficiaries utilize the same rates unless otherwise noted in the plan. All applicable procedure code listings and/or rates are published on the State's website at www.njmmis.com under the link for 'Rate and Code Information' and can be found in the following locations:

- **Medicaid Fee Schedules:**
 - **Location:** Procedure Master Listing – Medicaid Fee for Service - CY 2026 (last updated in SPA 26-0002 effective 4/1/26)
 - **Description:** Main file of procedure codes billable to Medicaid for all services except as indicated.

26-0002 MA (NJ)

TN: 26-0002

Approval Date: July 24, 2026

SUPERSEDES: 26-0001

Effective Date: April 1, 2026