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State/Territory Name: Texas

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 25-0038

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS Form 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

January 15, 2026

Emily Zalkovsky
State Medicaid Director
Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
P.O. Box 13247
Austin, TX 78711-3247

Re: Texas State Plan Amendment (SPA) – 25-0038

Dear Director Zalkovsky:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 25-0038. The purpose of this amendment is to comply with actions implemented in Section 201 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, which made the mandatory medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorders (OUD) benefit permanent by amending Section 1905(a)(29) of the Social Security Act (the Act) to remove the end date of September 30, 2025.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations. This letter informs you that Texas' Medicaid SPA TN 25-0038 was approved on January 15, 2026, with an effective date of October 1, 2025.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Ford Blunt at (214) 767-6381 or via email at Ford.Blunt@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Wendy E. Hill Petras
Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

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

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2 5 0 0 3 8

2. STATE

T X

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACTTO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

October 1, 2025

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

**Social Security Act §1905(a)(29); 42 CFR §447.201(b); 42 USC §
1396a(a)(10)(A); id. §1396d(a)(29), (ee)**

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY 2026 \$ 0

b. FFY 2027 \$ 0

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

**Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-A
Pages 1-6****Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-B
Pages 1-6**8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)**Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-A
Pages 1-6 (TN 21-0004)****Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-B
Pages 1-6 (TN 21-0004)**

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

The purpose of this amendment is to update the Texas Medicaid State Plan to reflect the permanent federal requirement for coverage of Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorder.

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: Sent to Governor's Office this date. Comments, if any, will be forwarded upon receipt.

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

12. TYPED NAME

Emily Zalkovsky

13. TITLE

State Medicaid Director

14. DATE SUBMITTED

December 18, 2025

15. RETURN TO

Emily Zalkovsky
State Medicaid Director
Post Office Box 13247, MC: H-100
Austin, Texas 78711**FOR CMS USE ONLY**

16. DATE RECEIVED

December 18, 2025

17. DATE APPROVED

January 15, 2026

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

October 1, 2025

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Wendy E. Hill Petras

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Citation: 3.1-A Amount, Duration, and Scope of Services for Categorically Needy

☒ 1905(a)(29) MAT as described and limited in Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-A.

ATTACHMENT 3.1-A identifies the medical and remedial services provided to the categorically needy.

PRA Disclosure Statement - This use of this form is mandatory and the information is being collected to assist the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in implementing section §1905(a)(29) of the Social Security Act. Under the Privacy Act of 1974, any personally identifying information obtained will be kept private to the extent of the law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0938-1148 (CMS-10398 #68). Public burden for all of the collection of information requirements under this control number is estimated to take about 25 hours per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas**

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

General Assurances

- ☒ MAT is covered under the Medicaid state plan for all Medicaid beneficiaries who meet the medical necessity criteria for receipt of the service for the period beginning October 1, 2020.
- ☒ The state assures coverage of Naltrexone, Buprenorphine, and Methadone and all of the forms of these drugs for MAT that are approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) and all biological products licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).
- ☒ The state assures that Methadone for MAT is provided by Opioid Treatment Programs that meet the requirements in 42 C.F.R. Part 8.

Service Package

The state covers the following counseling services and behavioral health therapies as part of MAT:

Please set forth each service and components of each service (if applicable), along with a description of each service and component service.

MAT for treatment of OUD is covered under section 1905(a)(29) of the Act beginning October 1, 2020.

The state covers substance use disorder (SUD) counseling for MAT for the treatment of OUD consistent with the requirements of 1905(a)(29).

1. SUD counseling

- a. SUD counseling is available on a group or individual basis.

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**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas**

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

b. Counseling for SUDs is designed to assist a person in developing a better understanding of their SUD, help to establish treatment goals and plans for achieving those goals, and provide interventions to assist the person in accordance with the plan. SUD counseling assists a person in developing the skills and supports needed to address their SUD over time.

Please include each practitioner and provider entity that furnishes each service and component service.

SUD counseling is provided by:

- Qualified credentialed counselors (QCCs)
- Counselor interns under the supervision of a QCC

SUD counseling is payable to state-licensed and Medicaid-enrolled chemical dependency treatment facilities and opioid treatment programs that employ QCCs or counselor interns, but QCCs and counselor interns cannot directly bill Medicaid for their services.

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State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Please include a brief summary of the qualifications for each practitioner or provider entity that the state requires. Include any licensure, certification, registration, education, experience, training and supervisory arrangements that the state requires.

Qualified credentialed counselor (QCC)

All QCCs must be licensed and in good standing in the State of Texas, and act within the scope of the individual's license. The credentialing requirement minimums for a QCC is a licensed chemical dependency counselor (LCDC) or one of the following practitioners who have at least 1,000 hours of documented experience treating substance-related disorders:

- Licensed professional counselor (LPC)
- Licensed master social worker (LMSW)
- Licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT)
- Licensed psychologist
- Licensed physician
- Licensed physician assistant (PA)
- Certified addictions registered nurse (CARN) - Registered nurse with current certification in addictions nursing by a nationally recognized certification entity.
- Advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners as a clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner with a population focus area in psychiatric/mental health (APRN P/MH)

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**State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas**

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Counselor Intern

A person in good standing seeking a license as a chemical dependency counselor who is registered with the state and pursuing a course of training in chemical dependency counseling. The counselor intern performing SUD counseling must be under the supervision of a QCC. Counselor interns must:

1. Be at least 18 years old.
2. Have a high school diploma or its equivalent
3. Have successfully completed 270 classroom hours, or 18 semester hours (or 27 quarter hours) of chemical dependency curricula*
4. Have completed 300 hours of approved supervised field work practicum*
5. Have passed the criminal history standards
6. Have signed a written agreement to abide by the state ethical standards
7. Be worthy of public trust and confidence.

*Applicants holding at least a baccalaureate degree in chemical dependency counseling, sociology, psychology, or a major approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services as one related to human behavior and development are exempt from the 270 hours of education and the 300-hour practicum.

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State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Utilization Controls

- ☒ The state has drug utilization controls in place. (Check each of the following that apply)
- ☐ Generic first policy
 - ☒ Preferred drug lists
 - ☒ Clinical criteria
 - ☒ Quantity limits
- ☐ The state does not have drug utilization controls in place.

Limitations

Describe the state's limitations on amount, duration, and scope of MAT drugs, biologicals, and counseling and behavioral therapies related to MAT.

Pharmacy Benefits:

Texas applies limits to quantities and Morphine Milligram Equivalents for buprenorphine prescriptions through the pharmacy benefit. A quantity limit is applied to naltrexone. The MME limits vary depending on whether the opioid prescription is used for OUD treatment. Under the state's opioid prescription policy, an opioid prescription cannot exceed 90 MME. However, exceptions can be made to bypass the limit of 90 MME for beneficiaries with an OUD through the safety-related prior authorization process.

Texas applies prospective drug utilization review alerts for concurrent use of certain drugs with opioids, including buprenorphine. Texas utilizes a preferred drug list, and drug utilization review safety-related prior authorization is applied to buprenorphine.

Medical Benefits:

When obtained as a medical benefit, methadone and buprenorphine are limited to a certain quantity per day, as specified in the state's medical policy, for any provider. Take-home doses of methadone or buprenorphine may be dispensed but are limited to one per date of service and no more than 30 per 30 days, by any provider.

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State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act
State/Territory: Texas

Section 1905(a)(29) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Citation: 3.1-B Amount, Duration, and Scope of Services for Medically Needy

- ☒ 1905(a)(29) MAT as described and limited in Supplement 4 to Attachment 3.1-B.

ATTACHMENT 3.1-B identifies the medical and remedial services provided to the medically needy.

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