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State/Territory Name: Washington

State Plan Amendment (SPA) # WA 24-0039

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S3-14-28
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Financial Management Group

November 26, 2024

Dr. Charissa Fotinos, Medicaid Director
Health Care Authority
PO Box 45502
Olympia, WA 98504-5010

RE: TN 24-0039

Dear Director Fotinos:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reviewed the proposed Washington state plan amendment (SPA) to Attachment 4.19-D WA-24-0039, which was submitted to CMS on September 3, 2024. This plan amendment updates the case mix data source from the Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs) to the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM).

We reviewed your SPA submission for compliance with statutory requirements, including in sections 1902(a)(2), 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30), 1903 as it relates to the identification of an adequate source for the non-federal share of expenditures under the plan, as required by 1902(a)(2), of the Social Security Act and the applicable implementing Federal regulations.

Based upon the information provided by the state, we have approved the amendment with an effective date of July 1, 2024. We are enclosing the approved CMS-179 and a copy of the new state plan pages.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact Tom Caughey at 517-487-8598 or via email at Tom.caughey@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Rory Howe
Director
Financial Management Group

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

FORM APPROVED
OMB No. 0938-0193

TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL

FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 24 — 0039

2. STATE: WA

3. 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
July 1, 2024

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION
1902(a) of the Social Security Act

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)
a. FFY 2024 $ 13,905,651
b. FFY 2025 $ 55,169,159

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT
Attachment 4.19-D Part 1 pages 1, 2, 6, 16

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT *(If Applicable)*
Attachment 4.19-D Part 1 pages 1 (TN#17-0030), 2 (TN# 23-0043), 6 (TN# 18-0023), 16 (TN# 23-0043)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT
Nursing Facility Rate Updates

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: EXEMPT

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL
[redacted]

12. TYPED NAME
Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc

13. TITLE
Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director

14. DATE SUBMITTED
September 3, 2024

15. RETURN TO
State Plan Coordinator
POB 42716
Olympia, WA 98504-2716

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED
September 3, 2024

17. DATE APPROVED
November 26, 2024

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL
July 1, 2024

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
[redacted]

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
Rory Howe

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
Director, Financial Management Group

22. REMARKS

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

NURSING FACILITIES AND SWING BED HOSPITALS

Section I. Introduction:

This State Plan Amendment (SPA) to Attachment 4.19-D, Part I, describes the overall payment methodology for nursing facility services provided to Medicaid recipients: (1) by privately-operated nursing facilities, both non-profit and for-profit; (2) by nursing facilities serving veterans of military service operated by the State of Washington Department of Veterans Affairs; and (3) by nursing facilities operated by public hospital districts in the state. Both privately operated and veterans' nursing facilities share the same methodology. Facilities operated by public hospital districts share the methodology described below also, except for proportionate share payments described in Section XVII below, which apply only to them.

Excluded here is the payment rate methodology for nursing facilities operated by the State's Division of Developmental Disabilities, which is described in Attachment 4.19-D, Part II.

Chapter 388-96 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), chapter 74.46, chapter 34.05, and chapter 70.38 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and any other state or federal laws or regulations, codified or uncodified, as they exist as of July 1, 2024, as may be applicable, are incorporated by reference in Attachment 4.19-D, Part I, as if fully set forth.

The methods and standards used to set payment rates are specified in Part I in a comprehensive manner only. For a more detailed account of the methodology for setting nursing facility payment rates for the three indicated classes of facilities, consult chapter 388-96 WAC and 74.46 RCW.

The methods and standards employed by the State to set rates comply with 42 CFR 447, Subpart C, as superseded by federal legislative changes in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

Section II. General Provisions:

Medicaid rates for nursing facility care in Washington continue to be facility specific. Prior to rate setting, nursing facilities' costs and other reported data, such as resident days, are examined, to ensure accuracy and to determine costs allowable for rate setting. Washington is a state utilizing industry median cost data, subject to applicable limits, combined with facility-specific and regularly updated resident case mix data, to set the direct care and indirect care component. The capital rate is set using a fair market rental system. The quality enhancement is set using Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services quality data.

A facility's Medicaid rate is a total of four component rates: 1) direct care (DC), 2) indirect care (IDC) , 3) capital (C), and 4) quality enhancement (QE).

Medicaid rates are subject to a "budget dial", under which the State is required to reduce rates for all participating nursing facilities statewide by a uniform percentage, after notice and on a prospective basis only, if the statewide average facility total rate, weighted by Medicaid resident days, approaches an overall limit for a particular state fiscal year. Under RCW 74.46.421, the statewide average payment rate for any state fiscal year (SFY) weighted by patient days shall not exceed the statewide weighted average nursing facility payment rate identified for that SFY in the biennial appropriations act (budgeted rate). After the State determines all nursing facility payment rates in accordance with chapter 74.46 RCW and chapter 388-96 WAC, it determines whether the weighted average nursing facility payment rate is equal to or likely to exceed the budgeted rate for the applicable SFY. If the weighted average nursing facility payment rate is equal to or likely to exceed the budgeted rate, then the State adjusts all nursing facility payment rates proportional to the amount by which the weighted average rate allocations would exceed the budgeted rate. Adjustments for the current SFY are made prospectively, not retrospectively and applied proportionately to each nursing facility’s component rate allocation. The application of RCW 74.46.421 is termed applying the “budget dial”. The budget dial supersedes all rate setting principles in chapters 74.46 RCW and 388-96 WAC.

For SFY 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025), the budget dial rate is $376.54.

If any final order or final judgment, including a final order or final judgment resulting from an adjudicative proceeding or judicial review permitted by chapter 34.05 RCW would result in an increase to a nursing facility’s payment rate for a prior fiscal year or years, the State shall consider whether the increased rate for that facility would result in the statewide weighted average payment rate for all facilities for such fiscal year or years to be exceeded. If the increased rate would result in the statewide average payment rate for such year or years being exceeded, the State shall increase that nursing facility’s payment rate to meet the final order or judgment only to the extent that it does not result in an increase to the statewide average payment rate for all facilities.

For SFY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), for the purpose of a smoother transition to PDPM data for facilities, each facility will see an increase of at least 9% in their total rate. The largest rate increases will be limited to 15-16%.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

NURSING FACILITIES AND SWING BED HOSPITALS (contd)

Section VI. Direct Care Component Rate

This component rate, which averages approximately 70.0% of each participating facility's total Medicaid rate, corresponds to one resident day of care for nursing services, including supplies, therapy, laundry, food, and dietary services.

In applying case mix principles for direct care rate setting, data is taken from facility-completed, mandatory assessments of individual residents, and using a software program that groups residents by care needs, the State determines for each facility both a facility average case mix index (for all the facility's residents) and a Medicaid average case mix index (for Medicaid residents only). A case mix index is a number indicating intensity of need for services by a resident population, or group within a population.

Effective July 1, 2006, the facility average case mix index will be used throughout the applicable cost-rebasing period. Also, when establishing direct care component rates, the State will use an average of facility case mix indexes from the four calendar quarters occurring during the cost report period used to rebase the direct care component rate allocations.

Case mix weights will be determined using the Nursing Component of the Patient-Driven Payment Model (PDPM) data set.

Each facility's allowable direct care cost per resident day is divided by the facility's average case mix index to derive the facility's allowable direct care cost per case mix unit.

Direct care is paid at a fixed rate based on one hundred percent or greater of statewide case mix neutral median costs. Direct care is performance adjusted for acuity using case mix principles. It is then regionally adjusted using county wide wage index information available through the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The State shall determine and update semiannually for each nursing facility serving Medicaid residents a facility-specific per-resident day direct care component rate adjustment for acuity to be effective on the first day of each six-month period.

Direct care includes routine therapy which is the average one-on-one care from qualified therapists delivered to a Medicaid resident during one day, and the average therapy consultation from qualified consultants delivered to a resident during one day. Four types of therapy are recognized for rate setting: speech, physical, occupational, and other. Two general service categories are recognized for each: one-on-one therapy and therapy consulting. These do not include rehabilitative therapies.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

NURSING FACILITIES AND SWING BED HOSPITALS (cont.)

Section XIV. Adjustments to Prospective Rates other than for Economic Trends and Conditions, Changes in Case Mix, Fluctuation in Licensed Beds or One-Time Specific Authorizations:

The department may grant prospective rate adjustment to fund new requirements imposed by the federal government or by the department, if the department determines a rate increase is necessary in order to implement the new requirement.

Rates may be adjusted prospectively and retrospectively to correct errors or omissions on the part of the department or the facility, or to implement the final result of a provider appeal if needed, or to fund the cost of placing a nursing facility in receivership or to aid the receiver in correcting deficiencies.

Section XV. Rates for Swing Bed Hospitals:

The average rate comprising the swing bed rate for July 1, 2019, is computed by first multiplying each nursing facility's average daily rate of the preceding calendar year (2018) by the facility's approximate number of Medicaid resident days during the preceding year (2018), which yields an approximate total Medicaid payment for each facility for that calendar year.

Total payments to all Medicaid facilities for the preceding calendar year are added which yields the approximate total payment to all facilities for that year, and then the total is divided by statewide Medicaid resident days for the same year to derive a weighted average for all facilities.

The same methodology is followed annually to reset the swing bed rate, effective July 1 of each year. Effective July 1 of each year, the State follows the same methodology to reset the swing bed rate. The swing bed rate is subject to the operation of RCW 74.46.421.

The swing bed rate for SFY 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) is $327.04.