

## **Table of Contents**

**State/Territory Name Washington**

**State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 25-0005**

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

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September 5, 2025

Ryan Moran, Director  
Dr. Charissa Fotinos, State Medicaid Director  
Washington State Health Care Authority  
Post Office Box 45502  
Olympia, WA 98504-5010

Re: Washington State Plan Amendment (SPA) – 25-0005

Dear Director Moran and Dr. Fotinos:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 25-0005. This amendment proposes to update the current policy and practice of the Physician Services section in the Medicaid State Plan in the following areas:

- Critical Care
- Newborn care and neonatal and pediatric intensive care unit (NICU/PICU) services
- Physician standby services

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Section 1905(a)(5) of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations at 42 Code of Federal Regulations § 440.50. This letter informs you that Washington's Medicaid SPA TN WA-25-0005 is approved on September 5, 2025, with an effective date of October 1, 2025.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Edwin Walaszek at (212) 616-2512 or via email at [Edwin.Walaszek1@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Edwin.Walaszek1@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Shantrina Roberts, Acting Director  
Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

cc: Ann Myers, Section Manager & State Plan Coordinator, Health Care Authority

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

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2 5 — 0 0 0 5

2. STATE

WA3. 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

October 1, 2025

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

~~1902a of the Social Security Act, 42 CFR 440.130-~~  
**Section 1905(a)(5) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 440.50**

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY 2025 \$ 0 CMS Pen and inkb. FFY 2026 \$ 0 CMS Pen and Ink

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

Attachment 3.1-A page 17  
Attachment 3.1-B page 17  
Attachment 3.1-B page 18 (CMS Pen and Ink Change)8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION  
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)Attachment 3.1-A page 17 (TN# 09-013)  
Attachment 3.1-B page 17 (TN# 09-013)  
Attachment 3.1-B page 18 (TN#19-0011) (CMS Pen and Ink Change)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

Update Physician Services

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

12. TYPED NAME  
Charissa Fotinos, MD, MSc13. TITLE  
Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director14. DATE SUBMITTED  
July 1, 2025

15. RETURN TO

State Plan Coordinator  
POB 42716  
Olympia, WA 98504-2716**FOR CMS USE ONLY**

16. DATE RECEIVED

July 1, 2025

17. DATE APPROVED

September 5, 2025**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

Shantrina RobertsActing Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

9/03/25: State authorizes the following pen and ink change:

- Box 6a and 6b: Add "0"

8/27/25: State authorizes the following pen and ink change:

- Box 7: To Attachment 3.1-B, add page "18"
- Box 8: To Attachment 3.1-B, add page "18" (TN# 19-0011)

7/3/25: State authorizes the following pen and ink change:

- Box 5: Change to Section 1905(a)(5) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR 440.50

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTONAMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL  
CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY

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## 5. a. Physicians' services

Exceptions for noncovered services and service limitations are allowed when medically necessary and prior authorized by the agency.

## (1) Critical care

- For inpatient critical care, only the attending physician(s) who assume(s) responsibility for care of the client during a life threatening episode is/are covered to deliver services
- More than one physician may be covered to deliver services if the services are distinctly separate services (i.e., involve different specialties (unrelated diagnosis).
- In the emergency room, only one physician is covered to deliver services.

## (2) Newborn care and neonatal and pediatric intensive care unit (NICU/PICU) services.

- One routine NICU/PICU visit per client per day.
- Prolonged care and newborn resuscitation when the physician is present at the delivery (in addition to the one routine visit).

## (3) Osteopathic manipulative therapy

- Up to ten osteopathic manipulations per client, per calendar year.

## (4) Physical exams:

Routine physical exams are covered in specific instances, including but not limited to:

- EPSDT screening
- Nursing facility placement exams
- Disability determinations for Title XVI-related individuals
- Yearly exams for developmental disability determination (DDD) clients

## (5) Physician care plan oversight

Provided once per client, per month. A plan of care must be established by the home health agency, hospice, or nursing facility, and the physician must provide 30 minutes or more of oversight each calendar month to the client.

## (6) Reserved

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTONAMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE  
MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

## 5. a. Physicians' Services

Exceptions for noncovered services and service limitations are allowed when medically necessary and prior authorized by the agency.

## (1) Critical care.

- For inpatient critical care, only the attending physician(s) who assume(s) responsibility for care of the client during a life threatening episode is/are covered to deliver services.
- More than one physician may be covered to deliver services if the services are distinctly separate services (i.e., involve different specialties (unrelated diagnosis)).
- In the emergency room, only one physician is covered to deliver services.

## (2) Hospital visits. No payment for visits on those days that exceed the allowed length of stay unless an extension was requested and has been approved.

- (3) Newborn care and neonatal and pediatric intensive care unit (NICU/PICU) services. One routine NICU/PICU visit per client per day.
- Prolonged care and newborn resuscitation when the physician is present at the delivery (in addition to the one routine visit).

## (4) Osteopathic manipulative therapy.

- Up to ten osteopathic manipulations per client, per calendar year.

## (5) Physical exams

Routine physical exams are covered in specific instances, including but not limited to:

- EPSDT screening
- Nursing facility placement exams
- Disability determinations for Title XVI-related individuals
- Yearly exams for developmental disability determination (DDD) clients

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTONAMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE  
MEDICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

## 5. a. Physicians' services (cont.)

## (6) Physician care plan oversight.

Provided once per client, per month. A plan of care must be established by the home health agency, hospice, or nursing facility, and the physician must provide 30 minutes or more of oversight each calendar month to the client.

## (7) Reserved

## (8) Physician visits.

Limited to:

- Two physician visits per month for a client residing in a nursing facility or an intermediate care facility.
- One inpatient hospital visit per client, per day, for the same or related diagnosis.
- One office or other outpatient visit per non-institutionalized client, per day, for an individual physician, except for return visits to an emergency room.

Professional inpatient services during the follow-up period for a surgery are only covered if the services are performed on an emergency basis and are unrelated to the original surgery.

Prior authorization is required for additional services that are medically necessary.

## (9) Psychiatric services:

Limited to:

Inpatient care

- One hospital call per day for direct psychiatric care

Outpatient care

- One psychiatric diagnostic interview examination per provider in a calendar year unless an additional evaluation is medically necessary.
- Medically necessary individual or family/group psychotherapy visits, with or without the client
- One psychiatric medication management service per day in an outpatient setting unless more is medically necessary

Prior authorization is required for additional services that are medically necessary.

See section 6.d.(8) for collaborative care (integrated medical and behavioral health services) provided in primary care settings