

# All-State Medicaid and CHIP Call

October 8, 2024



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# Agenda

- Request for Comments (RFC) on Templates for Documenting Compliance with Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Requirements in Medicaid and CHIP
  - Demonstration of Managed Care Plan and State Fee-for-Service (FFS) Reporting Templates and State Summary Template
- Open Mic Q and A

# **Request for Comments on Templates for Documenting Compliance with Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Requirements in Medicaid and CHIP**

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# Background

- CMS has developed new templates and instructional guides for States to document how their Medicaid and separate CHIP mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) benefits comply with Medicaid and CHIP parity regulations (refer to [CMS-2333-F](#)).
- We posted these draft templates and guides for public comment on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> on Medicaid.gov at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/downloads/parity-temp-rfc.pdf>
- Most provisions of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) apply to coverage provided to enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), and coverage provided by Medicaid Alternative Benefit Plans (ABPs) and separate CHIP programs regardless of delivery system.
- MH/SUD parity requirements do not apply to benefits for Medicaid beneficiaries who are not enrolled in an MCO and/or ABP, and who receive only traditional State plan services through an FFS delivery system, prepaid inpatient health plan (PIHP), and/or prepaid ambulatory health plan (PAHP). However, CMS encourages States to provide for parity between MH/SUD and medical or surgical (M/S) benefits for all Medicaid and separate CHIP beneficiaries.

# Current Processes for Ensuring Compliance with MH/SUD Parity in Medicaid and CHIP

## Medicaid MCO Programs

- States submit parity documentation to CMS with the MCO contract for review and approval.
- States post parity documentation on their State Medicaid Agency's website.

## Separate CHIP

- States submit State Plan Amendments (SPAs) and documentation to CMS to demonstrate compliance with MH/SUD parity requirements.

## ABP

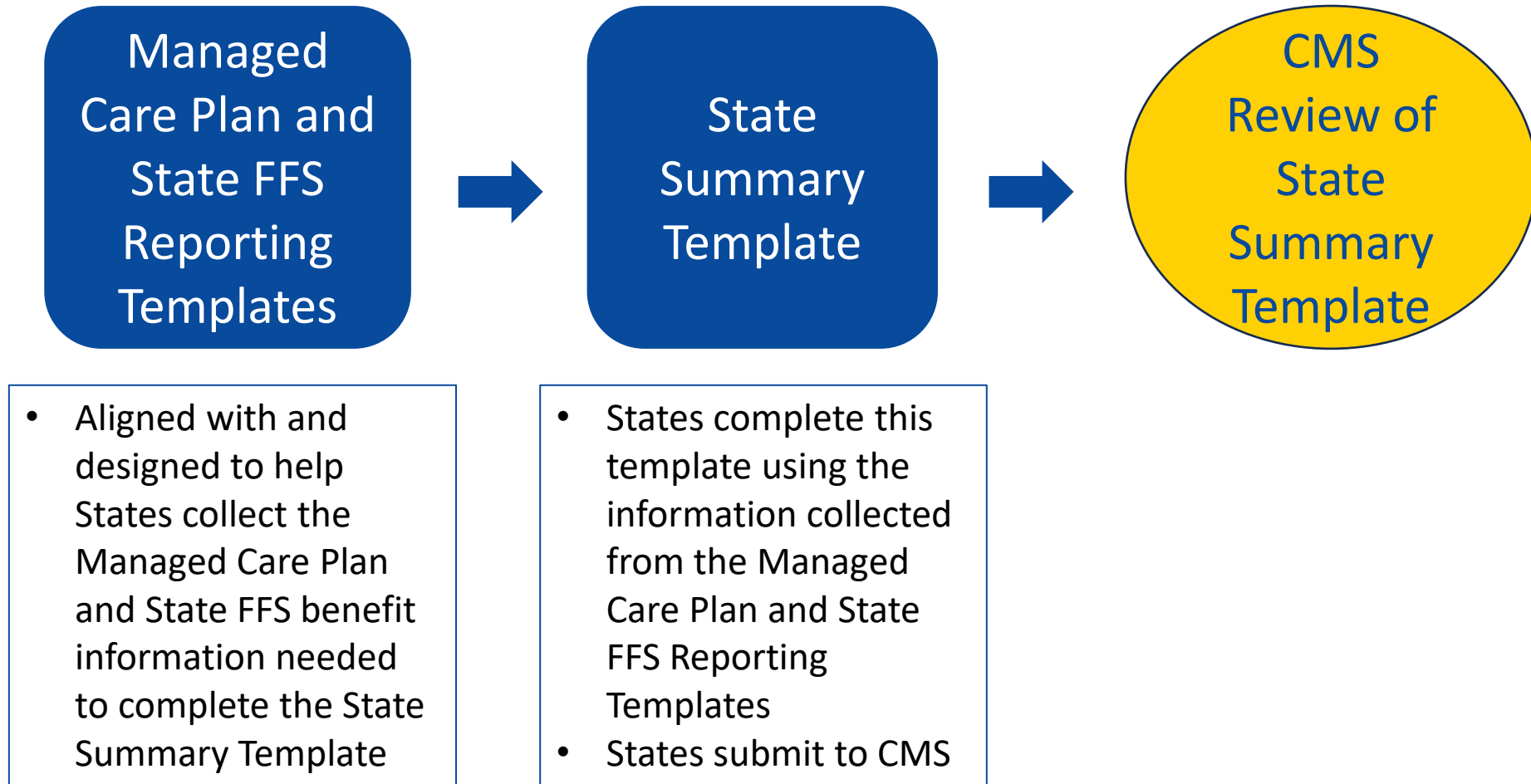
- States submit ABP SPAs to CMS that require States to identify any benefit limitations and provide descriptions of benefits that demonstrate compliance with MH/SUD parity requirements.

Refer to [June 2024 CMCS Informational Bulletin](#) for more details.

# Draft Templates for Documenting Compliance with Medicaid and CHIP MH/SUD Parity Requirements

- The draft templates and guides open for comment are intended to:
  - Clarify for States and plans what information to submit to demonstrate parity compliance with MH/SUD parity requirements in a standardized format
  - Streamline the review process to minimize submission of duplicative information and support coordination of review across CMS divisions
  - Reduce time spent by States and plans collecting information to document compliance and improve efficiency and effectiveness of review and analysis of the information submitted to ensure compliance requirements by CMS

# Draft Templates for Documenting Compliance with Medicaid and CHIP MH/SUD Parity Requirements (continued)



# Comments on Templates/Guides

To receive full consideration, please submit comments to the following email address:

[MedicaidandCHIP-Parity@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MedicaidandCHIP-Parity@cms.hhs.gov)

Any comments submitted today through the All-State Call cannot be considered official submissions to the RFC.

CMS originally set the deadline for comments as October 29, 2024; however, in response to requests from stakeholders we are extending that deadline to December 2, 2024.



# Demonstration of Templates

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- Managed Care Plan and State FFS Reporting Templates
- State Summary Template

# Comments on Templates/Guides (continued)

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To receive full consideration, please submit comments to the following email address by December 2, 2024:

[MedicaidandCHIP-Parity@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MedicaidandCHIP-Parity@cms.hhs.gov)

Any comments submitted today through the All-State Call cannot be considered official submissions to the RFC.

# Questions