

Reducing Substance Use Disorders Program Area Medication-Assisted Treatment Affinity Group Program Overview

Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program

The Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) is a collaboration between the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation designed to build state capacity and support ongoing innovation in Medicaid. Medicaid IAP provides technical assistance to support states' ongoing delivery system reform efforts across four priority program areas: (1) Reducing Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), (2) Improving Care for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Complex Care Needs and High Costs, (3) Promoting Community Integration through Long-Term Services and Supports, and (4) Supporting Physical and Mental Health Integration. IAP also provides support in four functional areas that it views as the building blocks to delivery system reform: (1) Data Analytics, (2) Quality Measurement, (3) Value-Based Payment and Financial Simulations, and (4) Performance Improvement.

Medication-Assisted Treatment Technical Assistance

Medicaid IAP is offering Medicaid agencies technical assistance to identify strategies for modernizing their medication-assisted treatment (MAT) delivery systems across a series of related topics. States participating in the IAP MAT Affinity Group will receive technical assistance over seven months through—

- Access to expertise from a diverse technical assistance team of Medicaid, SUD, and MAT coaches
- Participation in group coaching, office hours, and webinars on topics of common interest

IAP will select up to 10 states to participate in this technical assistance opportunity. This opportunity is available to all Medicaid programs at all levels of expertise and experience.

Components of Technical Assistance for State Medicaid Agencies

The MAT Affinity Group will run from February 2020 through August 2020. The group contains three components, each of which will last eight weeks and run sequentially. States may participate in one, two, or all three components. During each component, states may create an individual work plan or a cumulative work plan for all components in which they participate.

Components for the MAT Affinity Group include the following:

- **Component 1: Role of Opioid Treatment Programs:** This component will take place February–April 2020. Its objective is to assist states in assessing the role and functions of opioid treatment programs (OTPs) by reviewing best practices from other states on standards of care, quality metrics, and any applicable state reporting requirements. Additionally, technical assistance could be provided to states in assessing the feasibility of transforming OTPs into health homes or centers of excellence, as well as considering value-based payment strategies and new reimbursement models.
- **Component 2: Key MAT Strategies to Enhance Access:** This component will take place April–June 2020. The objective of this component is to provide technical assistance to states in conducting a high-level review of each state's practices and payment arrangements for MAT.

The results of this activity can then be used by each state to assess the impact of MAT payment arrangements on access and to identify targets for improvement. Technical assistance topics for this component could include—

- *Discussion of low barrier MAT:* This discussion would involve assessing the pros and cons of initiating various low-barrier and high-engagement MAT models to identify potential settings for initiation. Through these discussions, states would consider programs, financing strategies, or a combination of both that could affect successful implementation.
- *Discussion of incorporating MAT into primary care:* This discussion would involve developing approaches and options for increasing the number of general medical practices, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, and Rural Health Clinics that offer MAT. Through this discussion, states would identify state programs and/or payment arrangements that require revisions to incentivize primary care to offer MAT.
- *Discussion of pharmacotherapy and MAT:* This discussion would involve reviewing the state’s practices for counseling as a condition for receiving opioid use disorder medication treatment and the impact of these practices on access, quality, and outcomes.
- **Component 3: Performance Metrics:** This component will take place during June–August 2020. The objective of this component is to assist states in identifying existing, nationally vetted measures for assessing MAT access, quality, and/or outcomes that are relevant to their state’s MAT delivery system goals. States could consider metrics from the system-level perspective, such as MAT access/entry points to assess network diversity by provider type (e.g., SUD outpatient, SUD residential, Federally Qualified Health Centers, office-based opioid treatment), as well as the patient-level perspective (e.g., how to define thresholds for the number of prescriptions and retention, etc.).

Technical assistance under this opportunity will include the following:

- **Kickoff webinar:**¹ Each component will begin with a kickoff webinar, which includes a discussion of objectives and introduction of the selected states, the federal Medicaid IAP team, and the contracted support staff. The kickoff is an opportunity for states to describe their aims for improving or expanding MAT delivery services in their state, which later will be detailed in their work plans.
- **Group coaching meetings:** Each component will contain at least two IAP coach-facilitated group discussions. To encourage peer-to-peer support, during discussions participants will share updates on work plans with peer states, including any challenges that the state may be facing in the development process. Through the peer-focused discussions, participants will have the opportunity to share specific examples of how Medicaid agencies are using resources to inform program planning and implementation steps needed for improving or expanding MAT for Medicaid beneficiaries.

¹ All Affinity Group participants will be invited to attend all component kickoff meetings, even if the state opts out of participating in the specific topic area.

- **Technical assistance office hours:** States may elect to participate in optional group-focused office hour sessions. IAP coaches will be available during office hours for additional state assistance. Three optional office hour sessions will be offered bi-weekly during each component.
- **Closeout webinar:** Each component will end with a closeout webinar, which will focus on state-led discussions of completed work plans with facilitated questions and answers. The closeout webinars will allow states a final opportunity to share progress to date and discuss future plans.
- **Resources:** The IAP coach team will review states’ ideas and provide states with questions or issues to consider related to the component topic being addressed to assist them with the development of their work plan. Where relevant, the IAP team also can connect participating states with non-participating states for the purpose of sharing peer knowledge on specific MAT topics.

How Will the Selected States Benefit?

States participating in this Affinity Group will benefit by improving their understanding of MAT delivery system modernization and by interacting with peer states to learn about and discuss ways to overcome barriers to improving or expanding MAT services. Participating states will have access to expert coaches to guide the development of a work plan(s) and exposure to example state Medicaid agencies’ strategies for modernizing their MAT delivery systems.

Selection Criteria and Timeline

IAP suggests that participating states consider identifying a core team of five to seven people for each component, including—

- State Project Manager, preferably a Medicaid lead with policy/program knowledge, who will oversee and be accountable for the day-to-day work
- Medicaid and Single State Agency for Substance Abuse Services policy and program staff
- Medicaid staff member with clinical expertise in MAT
- Team members who have: (1) the capacity to begin work shortly after selection for technical assistance and (2) sufficient time and resources for this effort

Affinity Group state teams are expected to meet between group coaching meetings to address questions or issues and develop team consensus. Each component will culminate in the development of a work plan or relevant components of a work plan addressed by the topic area.

Component	Week of	Activity
Role of Opioid Treatment Programs	February 24, 2020	Kickoff webinar
	March 2, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	March 9, 2020	Office hours ^a
	March 16, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	March 23, 2020	Office hours ^a
	March 30, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	April 6, 2020	Office hours ^a
	April 13, 2020	Closeout webinar
Key MAT Strategies to Enhance Access	April 20, 2020	Kickoff webinar
	April 27, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	May 4, 2020	Office hours ^a

Component	Week of	Activity
	May 11, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	May 18, 2020	Office hours ^a
	May 25, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	June 1, 2020	Office hours ^a
	June 8, 2020	Closeout webinar
Performance Metrics	June 15, 2020	Kickoff webinar
	June 22, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	June 29, 2020	Office hours ^a
	July 13, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	July 20, 2020	Office hours ^a
	July 27, 2020	Group coaching meeting
	August 3, 2020	Office hours ^a
August 10, 2020	Closeout webinar	

Abbreviation: NA, not applicable.

^a Office hour sessions are optional.

How Do Interested States Apply for Technical Assistance?

Interested states are asked to complete and email the expression of interest (EOI) form to sudcms@us.ibm.com by midnight (ET) on January 10, 2020, with the subject line “MAT for IAP SUD.” The EOI Form can be found online on the IAP SUD [web page](#).

For questions about this Medicaid IAP opportunity, contact the IAP SUD team at Roxanne.Dupert-Frank@cms.hhs.gov.