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State/Territory Name: Puerto Rico

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 23-0005

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS-179 form
- 3) Approved SPA pages



June 21, 2023

Dinorah Collazo Ortiz,
Puerto Rico's Medicaid Director
Puerto Rico Department of Health
P.O. Box 70184
San Juan, PR 00936-8184

Re: Puerto Rico State Plan Amendment (SPA) 23-0005

Dear Ms. Collazo:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed the proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) and accompanying section 1135 waivers submitted on April 4, 2023, under transmittal number (TN) PR-23-0005. This amendment proposes coverage of and reimbursement for COVID-19 treatment and prevention services in accordance with sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act.

Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the Social Security Act (Act), for the period of the public health emergency, CMS is modifying the requirement at 42 C.F.R. §430.20 that the state submits SPAs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency by the final day of the quarter, to obtain a SPA effective date during the quarter, enabling SPAs submitted after the last day of the quarter to have an effective date in a previous quarter, but no earlier than the effective date of the public health emergency.

The Territory of Puerto Rico requested a waiver to modify the public notice requirements applicable to the SPA submission process. Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the Act, CMS is modifying public notice requirements applicable to the SPA submission process. Public notice for SPAs is required under 42 C.F.R. §447.205 for changes in statewide methods and standards for setting Medicaid payment rates, 42 C.F.R. §447.57 for changes to premiums and cost-sharing, and 42 C.F.R. §440.386 for changes to Alternative Benefit Plans (ABPs). Pursuant to section 1135(b)(5) of the Act, CMS is approving the state's request to modify these notice requirements otherwise applicable to SPA submissions.

CMS conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Act and implementing regulations. This letter informs you that Puerto Rico's Medicaid SPA Transmittal Number 23-0005 is approved effective March 11, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Ivelisse Salce at 212-616-2411 or via email at Ivelisse.Salce@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Alissa Mooney DeBoy
On Behalf of Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Enclosures

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

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2 3 — 0 0 0 5

2. STATE

PR

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

March 11, 2021

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

Section 9811 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY 2021 \$ 25,552,551
b. FFY 2022 \$ 33,486,838

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

**Attachment 7.7-A (Vaccine and Vaccine Administration) Pg. 1-3
Attachment 7.7-B (Testing) Pg. 1-3
Attachment 7.7-C (Treatment) Pg. 1-3**

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

**New
New
New**

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

This amendment proposes to comply with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) requirements regarding coverage of and payment for 1) COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine administration; 2) COVID-19 testing; and 3) COVID-19 treatment and prevention and prevention of COVID-19.

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)

- GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
 COMMENTS OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER AS SPECIFIED:

Delegated to State Medicaid Director

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

Dinorah Collazo Ortiz

12. TYPED NAME

Dinorah Collazo-Ortiz, Esq., CHC

13. TITLE

Executive Director

14. DATE SUBMITTED

4/4/2023

15. RETURN TO

Dinorah Collazo-Ortiz, Esq., CHC
Medicaid Program
Puerto Rico Dept of Health
PO Box 70184
San Juan PR 00936-81814

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED

04/04/2023

17. DATE APPROVED

06/21/2023

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

03/11/2021

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF THE APPROVING OFFICIAL
Alissa Mooney DeBoy On Behalf of Anne Marie Costello

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
Deputy Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

22. REMARKS

Vaccine and Vaccine Administration at Section 1905(a)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act

During the period starting March 11, 2021, and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

Coverage

The state assures coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and administration of the vaccines.¹

The state assures that such coverage:

1. Is provided to all eligibility groups covered by the state, including the optional Individuals Eligible for Family Planning Services, Individuals with Tuberculosis, and COVID-19 groups if applicable, with the exception of the Medicare Savings Program groups and the COBRA Continuation Coverage group for which medical assistance consists only of payment of premiums; and
2. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(H) and section 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost-sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(A) of the Act.

The state provides coverage for any medically necessary COVID-19 vaccine counseling for children under the age of 21 pursuant to §§1902(a)(11), 1902(a)(43), and 1905(hh) of the Act.

The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration, with respect to the providers that are considered qualified to prescribe, dispense, administer, deliver and/or distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

Additional Information (Optional):

¹ The vaccine will be claimed under this benefit once the federal government discontinues purchasing the vaccine.

Reimbursement

The state assures that the state plan has established rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines for all qualified providers pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

List Medicaid state plan references to payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 vaccines and their administration for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

Puerto Rico operates under mandatory managed care and COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine administration and are reimbursed through the Managed Care Organizations, as is vaccine counseling for individuals under 21 years of age.

The state is establishing rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines are consistent with Medicare rates for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines, including any future Medicare updates at the:

- Medicare national average, OR
- Associated geographically adjusted rate.

The state is establishing a state specific fee schedule for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rate is as follows, and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location:

The state's fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.

___ The below-listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules, and payment to these providers for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines are described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

___ The payment methodologies for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines for providers listed above are described below:

___ The state is establishing rates for any medically necessary COVID-19 vaccine counseling for children under the age of 21 pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(E), 1905(r)(1)(B)(v) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

___ The state's rate is as follows and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location:

PRA Disclosure Statement 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 only required to respond to, a collection of information if 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 # 75). The public burden for collecting information requirements under this control number is estimated to take up to 1 hour 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.

COVID-19 Testing at section 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act

During the period starting March 11, 2021, and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

Coverage

X The states assure coverage of COVID-19 testing consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.

X The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes all types of FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests;
2. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
3. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group if applicable; and
4. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost-sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

Please describe any limits on the amount, duration, or scope of COVID-19 testing consistent with 42 CFR 440.230(b).

Puerto Rico Medicaid will cover eight single FDA-authorized, OTC, self-collected, in-home COVID-19 tests per person per year (365 days), with a maximum of four per month, without cost-sharing. No prescription or prior authorization is required. The COVID-19 tests must be in boxes containing either one or two single units and must be distributed to an enrolled Medicaid beneficiary by an enrolled pharmacy provider. A box with two single units counts as two tests.

The OTC COVID-19 test limit may be exceeded based on medical necessity and approved through a prior authorization or exception process.

X Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans, without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

X The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

Reimbursement

The state assures that it has established state plan rates for COVID-19 testing consistent with the CDC definitions of diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 and its recommendations for who should receive diagnostic and screening tests for COVID-19.

List references to Medicaid state plan payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 testing for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

Puerto Rico operates under mandatory managed care and COVID-19 treatment expenses are reimbursed through the Managed Care Organizations.

The state is establishing rates for COVID-19 testing pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rates for COVID-19 testing are consistent with Medicare rates for testing, including any future Medicare updates at the:

- Medicare national average, OR
- Associated geographically adjusted rate.

The state is establishing a state specific fee schedule for COVID-19 testing pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rate is as follows and the state's fee schedule is published in the following location:

The state's rates or fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.

____ The below listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules, and payment to these providers for COVID-19 testing is described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

Additional Information (Optional):

____ The payment methodologies for COVID-19 testing for providers listed above are described below:

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COVID-19 Treatment at section 1905(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act

During the period starting March 11, 2021, and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act):

Coverage for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID

X The state assures coverage of COVID-19 treatment, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies).

X The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes any non-pharmacological item or service described in section 1905(a) of the Act that is medically necessary for the treatment of COVID-19;
2. Includes any drug or biological that is approved (or licensed) by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) or authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to treat or prevent COVID-19, consistent with the applicable authorizations;
3. Is provided without amount, duration, or scope limitations that would otherwise apply when covered for purposes other than treatment or prevention of COVID-19;
4. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
5. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group, if applicable; and
6. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost-sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

X Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

X The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

Coverage for a Condition that May Seriously Complicate the Treatment of COVID

X The states assure coverage of treatment for a condition that may seriously complicate the treatment of COVID-19 during the period when a beneficiary is diagnosed with or is presumed to have COVID-19.

X The state assures that such coverage:

1. Includes items and services, including drugs, that were covered by the state as of March 11, 2021;
2. Is provided without amount, duration, or scope limitations that would otherwise apply when covered for other purposes;
3. Is provided to all categorically needy eligibility groups covered by the state that receive full Medicaid benefits;
4. Is provided to the optional COVID-19 group, if applicable; and
5. Is provided to beneficiaries without cost sharing pursuant to section 1916(a)(2)(I) and 1916A(b)(3)(B)(xiii) of the Act; reimbursement to qualified providers for such coverage is not reduced by any cost-sharing that would otherwise be applicable under the state plan.

X Applies to the state's approved Alternative Benefit Plans without any deduction, cost sharing, or similar charge, pursuant to section 1937(b)(8)(B) of the Act.

X The state assures compliance with the HHS COVID-19 PREP Act declarations and authorizations, including all of the amendments to the declaration.

Additional Information (Optional):

Reimbursement

X The state assures it has established state plan rates for COVID-19 treatment, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies).

List references to Medicaid state plan payment methodologies that describe the rates for COVID-19 treatment for each applicable Medicaid benefit:

Puerto Rico operates under mandatory managed care and COVID-19 treatment expenses are reimbursed through the Managed Care Organizations.

The state is establishing rates or fee schedules for COVID-19 treatment, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies), pursuant to sections 1905(a)(4)(F) and 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

The state's rates or fee schedule is the same for all governmental and private providers.

The below-listed providers are paid differently from the above rate schedules and payment to these providers for COVID-19 vaccines and the administration of the vaccines are described under the benefit payment methodology applicable to the provider type:

Additional Information (Optional):

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