

## Emergency State Plan Amendment

### Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

On April 3, 2020, Nebraska Medicaid submitted an emergency state plan amendment to the federal government as part of our response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

#### What is a state plan amendment?

A state plan amendment (SPA) is a change to Nebraska's Medicaid state plan, a document that outlines the nature and scope of the state's Medicaid program that the federal government approves. Federal approval of the state plan and any amendments gives the state access to federal money to use for the Medicaid program.

#### Why did Nebraska choose to submit an emergency SPA?

Following the president's emergency declaration related to COVID-19, Nebraska decided to submit a SPA to waive certain limitations and give the state Medicaid program new options previously not available in the state plan. This will help ensure Medicaid beneficiaries are able to continue to receive needed health care services through the emergency.

#### What changes will the SPA make to Nebraska Medicaid?

There are three main ways this SPA will affect Nebraska's Medicaid program:

1. It will allow additional health care providers to make **presumptive eligibility** determinations and **delay eligibility renewals** by 3 months.
2. It will **expand telehealth options, change limits on prescription refills, and adjust rules around non-emergency transportation.**
3. It will allow for **telephonic health services** to be covered.

#### How long will the state plan amendment be in effect?

This SPA will be in effect until the public health emergency related to COVID-19 is declared to be over.

With questions, please contact us at [DHHS.MLTCEXperience@Nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.MLTCEXperience@Nebraska.gov).

