

August 30, 2021

Nebraska Medicaid's 1115 Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Program Program Update – Demonstration Year 2 (7/1/2020-6/30/2021)

The Nebraska Substance Use Disorder (SUD) demonstration is approved under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act for a five-year demonstration period from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024. Nebraska's SUD demonstration expands the services covered under Medicaid to provide a full continuum of care for people struggling with substance use disorders.

As of June 30, 2021, the SUD demonstration waiver has allowed Nebraska Medicaid to cover nearly 600 substance use disorder treatment stays in facilities that meet the definition of an Institution for Mental Diseases (IMDs). Stays over 15 days represent over 65% of the stays in IMDs for individuals ages 21-64. Without the waiver, federal rules prohibit Medicaid from covering stays over 15 days for individuals 21 to 64 years of age in IMDs.

Demonstration Year 2 Program Milestones

Despite the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), the state was successful in submitting and subsequently receiving State Plan Amendment (SPA) approval for its Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) and Medically-monitored Inpatient Withdrawal (MMIW) services on October 30, 2020. This milestone means that the state was able to begin implementing service delivery beginning June 2021. Providers may enroll retroactively for these services back to January 1, 2020.

More information on these services can be found at:

- [OTP Provider Bulletin](#)
- [MMIW Provider Bulletin](#)

The state awarded Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) as the demonstration's independent evaluator on March 17, 2021. HSAG will take the lead in completing the Mid-Point Assessment, the Interim Evaluation Report, and the Summative Evaluation Report. An independent evaluator is a demonstration requirement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure there are no conflicts of interest in assessing the effectiveness of the demonstration program.

More information on the role of the evaluator in Medicaid Demonstration programs can be found at:

[Manatt Health Overview of Section 1115 Demonstration Evaluators](#)

Future Implementation Milestones

In the coming demonstration quarters, the state is pursuing completing other required demonstration milestones including:

- Milestone 2: Use of Evidence-based, SUD-specific Patient Placement Criteria.
- Milestone 3: Use of Nationally Recognized SUD-specific Program Standards to Set Provider Qualifications for Residential Treatment Facilities.
- Milestone 5: Implementation of Comprehensive Treatment and Prevention Strategies to Address Opioid Abuse and OUD.

Nebraska Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Demonstration Waivers

- Milestone 6: Improved Care Coordination and Transitions between Levels of Care.

More information on the demonstration milestones can be found as Attachment C in the [SUD demonstration approval](#).

More information on Nebraska Medicaid's SUD Demonstration program can be found at:

[Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Page](#)