

6.2.21 - NE Tribal/Medicaid Monthly Call Agenda

Conference Access Number **(888) 820-1398**

Attendee Code- **7300221**

Present: Jacob Kawamoto, Danielle Trejo, Chris Morton, Todd Baustert, Aaron Reece, LeAnn Ortmeier UHC, Jenn Nelson UHC, Jennifer Newcombe NTC, Ricky Ann Fletcher MCNA, Tracy Nelson MCNA, Jenny Cupak HB, Stacey Shuman (CMS), Vietta Swalley (Santee), Nancy Mackey (Santee), Arlene Grant (Winnebago), Ariel Earth (Winnebago), Crystal Appleton (Omaha), Jena Free (Omaha), Brenda Worrell (Omaha), Becky Crase (Ponca), Laura Peck

SPA/Waiver Updates

- SPA
 - 21-0004: Updated Tribal Notice regarding RN eSPA updates sent out on 5.17.21 and 5.18.21
 - **QUESTION:** Why is The Department using the date of 4-1-21 for the RN provision?
 - **ANSWER:** This date corresponds to the date that the SPA was submitted to CMS. The SPA was submitted in April, and since there is no previous guidance on it, the start date is then the beginning of the month of submission (unlike for COVID vaccine administration which there was previous guidance for going back to 12/2020). MLTC is not going to retroactively reprocess any claims. This SPA is to make sure that Nebraska's state plan accurately covers and reflects the services being provided in order to align with federal and state statutes and regulations.
 - **QUESTION:** Are the immunizations from December going to be honored?
 - **ANSWER:** Yes they will be.
 - Concerns were also raised to make sure MCOs are aware of this and do not try and deny any past claims. Jacob assured that this provision is not to try and change what has been done or any past claims, but to ensure that Nebraska MLTC policy is aligned with how RNs have been utilized to administer COVID-19 testing and vaccine services.
- Waiver Authority
 - HHA Update
 - Nebraska is halting implementation of the HHA program. Instead, the state will submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to transition the Basic and Prime Alternative Benefit Plans (ABP) to one Alternative ABP called the Nebraska Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP).
 - The Nebraska ABP will include all Medicaid State Plan benefits and services for adults that are a part of the Medicaid expansion.

- All participants in the Adult Medicaid Expansion Group will be moved to the Nebraska ABP. This transition is targeted to take place by October 1, 2021.
 - Participants in the Adult Medicaid Expansion Group who are receiving the Basic ABP, and are still eligible, as of October 1, 2021 will receive coverage for vision, dental, and OTC.
 - Once transitioned to the Nebraska ABP, participants will no longer have to complete Wellness Initiatives or Personal Responsibility Activities to qualify for Prime coverage (vision, dental, and OTC).
 - Tribal Notice regarding these changes was sent on 6.2.21. DHHS will be continuing to release information and additional guidance surrounding these changes.
- **Questions:**
 - **Q:** Will there still be the need to fill out the medically frail forms?
 - **A:** There will be changes to the medically frail process as all expansion adults will get full state plan benefits as of October 1.
 - ***Note:** This change is planned to take place on October 1, so it is important not to stop pursuing the Medically Frail designation until these changes have taken effect.
 - **Q:** About how many individuals are impacted?
 - **A:** Roughly 30,000+ individuals are currently enrolled in Basic and will be transitioned to the Nebraska ABP on October 1, 2021 if they are still eligible at that time. About 75% of individuals eligible in the adult expansion category are currently receiving the Basic benefit package.

Additional Items

- HealthyBlue / WellCare Reimbursement
 - Follow up on May meetings with HB and the Tribes
 - Jenny from Healthy Blue has met with most of the tribes, meetings are running smoothly with additional follow ups to come (HB is waiting for claims examples from some of the Tribes).
 - **QUESTION** (to HealthyBlue): When will the coordination of benefits be updated for the crossover claims from Medicare?
 - **ANSWER:** The fix was completed on May 24th and HB is currently processing those claims. This may take two-three weeks. If there are pending past WellCare/Healthy Blue claims that are outstanding, send Jenny an email so she can process them.
 - **QUESTION:** Tribes have not received a spreadsheet for WellCare for Dialysis claims that were to be paid in 2019?
 - **ANSWER:** Jenny will submit a request.
 - **QUESTION:** WellCare is not paying correctly for dialysis and asking for reimbursements from the clinic.
 - **ANSWER:** Jenny will request from WellCare and circle back on this issue.

- Cross-over claims
 - Nebraska is still waiting to hear back on a question that was sent to CMS to clarify how to handle internal operations and ensure compliance with federal guidance.
 - The Tribes raised concerns about what is needing to be clarified with CMS.
 - DHHS is clarifying previous guidance from CMS, and ensuring that their systems and processes are correct in paying the Crossover Claims up to the Tribal encounter rate.
- Additional Questions:
 - **QUESTION:** A concern was raised about the Tribal Consultation process. Clarification was asked for in regards to when information from these monthly calls or discussions with Tribal members is considered as part of the Tribal Consultation process.
 - **ANSWER:** Nebraska's official Tribal Consultation process can be found in the state plan at:
 - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20State%20Plan/State%20Medical%20Care%20Advisory%20Committee.pdf>
 - The quarterly in-person meetings have not been possible due to the public health emergency. But NE will be sure to start them up again as soon as it is safe to do so, and invites the Tribes to weigh in on when they would feel comfortable resuming these meetings. NE also sends out official Tribal Notices regarding all state plan and waiver amendments as a part of its official consultation process. The monthly Tribal/Medicaid meetings are held as supplementary to the official Consultation process, but they also focus on Medicaid topics and issues that the Tribes may be facing outside of just regulatory matters.
 - **QUESTION:** Especially when there are guest speakers and the meetings run long, can MLTC stay on the monthly calls longer than the allotted 30 minutes?
 - **ANSWER:** Yes, Jacob is committed to doing so whenever this happens.
 - **QUESTION:** Is there any information on the halt of the HHA implementation on the DHHS website?
 - **ANSWER:** Not at this time, but DHHS is shooting to get information posted by the end of the week, and MLTC will keep the Tribes posted when relevant information is available.