

## Substance Use Disorder Demonstration

### Program Summary

The Nebraska Substance Use Disorder (SUD) demonstration is approved under [Section 1115 of the Social Security Act](#) (SSA) for a 5-year demonstration period from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024, with a 5-year renewal pending that would extend the demonstration from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029. No changes to the program are requested in the extension request.

Nebraska’s SUD demonstration expands the services covered under Medicaid to provide a full continuum of care for individuals struggling with substance use disorder.

The SUD demonstration allows coverage for Medicaid recipients between the ages of 21 and 64 for short-term stays in substance use treatment facilities with more than 16 beds and longer than 15 days. These facilities are referred to as Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs).

In addition, the SUD demonstration expands SUD treatment services covered by Medicaid to include Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management and Opioid Treatment Programs.

The SUD demonstration seeks to promote recovery for people with substance use disorders by achieving the following goals:

- Increased rates of identification, initiation, and engagement in treatment for people with an SUD;
- Increased adherence to and retention in treatment;
- Reductions in overdose deaths, particularly those due to opioids;
- Reduced utilization of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings for treatment when the utilization is preventable or medically inappropriate by improving access to other continuum of care services;
- Fewer readmissions to the same or higher level of care where the readmission is preventable or medically inappropriate; and
- Improved access to care for physical health conditions among beneficiaries with SUD.

The SUD demonstration aims to increase access to and improve the quality of services while helping the Medicaid program avoid unnecessary care in costlier settings.

Medicaid has been able to cover 3,558 short-term stays over 15 days in IMDs that would not have otherwise been covered between July 1, 2019, and September 30, 2023. These stays account for 63.7% of the total inpatient SUD treatment stays within the 23 IMDs currently located in Nebraska<sup>1</sup>.

### Short-term IMD Stays

7/1/2019 - 9/30/2023

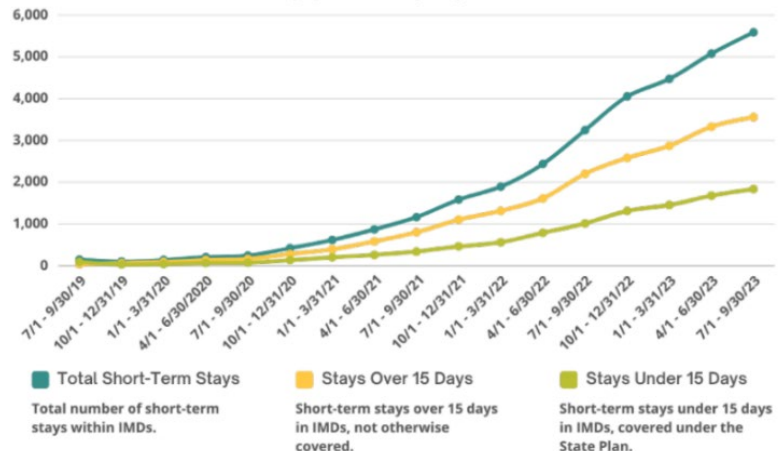


Figure 1 NE 1115 SUD IMD Stays, July 1, 2019 - Sept 30, 2023

To fulfill the requirements of the Demonstration approval, the State implemented various activities in line with the demonstration milestones to help achieve the goals referenced above. These activities include, but are not limited to, increasing the service continuum for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment through updating the State Plan with services for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management (MMIW); strengthening provider capacity; improving care coordination; updating utilization guidelines; developing robust reporting requirements; and focusing on connecting members with community-based services and supports.

## DEMONSTRATION IMPLEMENTATION MILESTONES

COMPLETED 3/31/2023

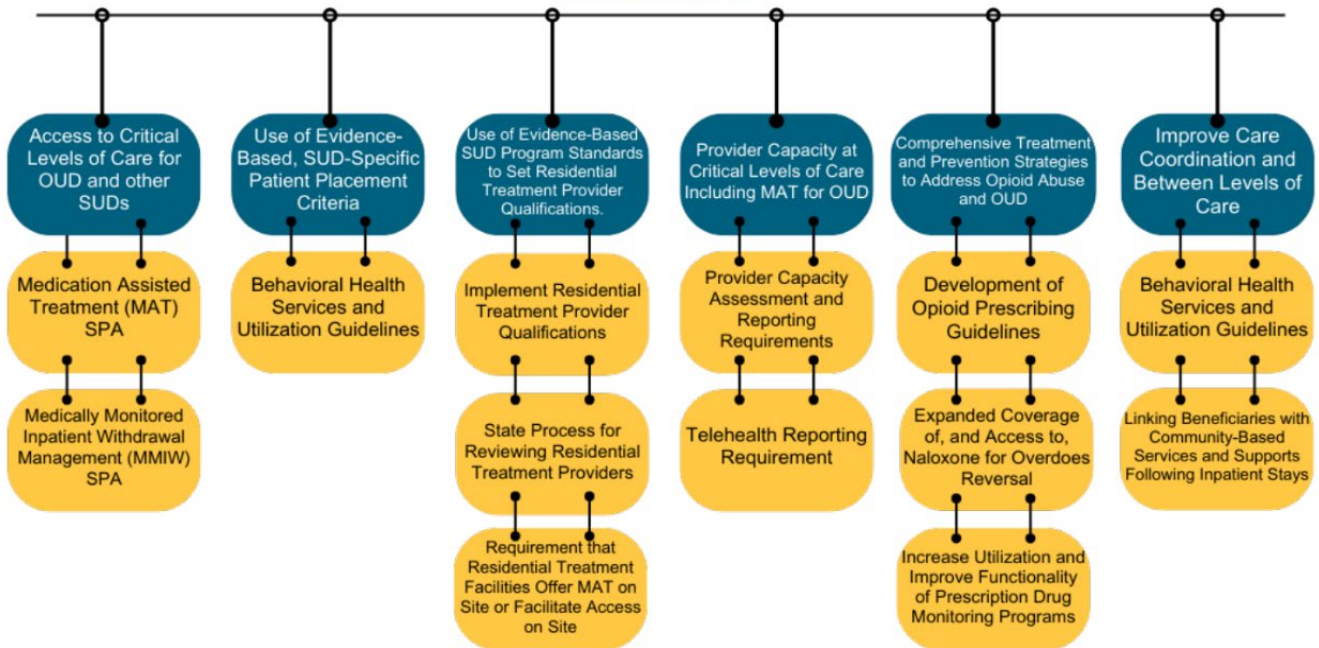


Figure 2 NE 1115 SUD Demonstration Implementation Milestones Diagram

The State finalized the completion of the implementation of the waiver on March 31, 2023, with the publication of the SUD Medicaid Service Definitions (MSDs)<sup>2</sup>. Refer to Figure 2 for all implementation milestones and activities.

<sup>1</sup> Nebraska Substance Use Disorder Demonstration (2023): <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Substance-Use-Disorder-Demonstration.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> The SUD MSDs can be found at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Behavioral-Health-Definitions.aspx> along with the behavioral health service definitions.