

Utah's Medicaid Reform 1115 Demonstration

Overview

What is the 1115 Demonstration Waiver?

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act gives the the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs. Under this authority, CMS may waive certain provisions of the Medicaid law to give states additional flexibility to design and improve their programs.

Utah's 1115 Waiver was implemented July 1, 2002. Over the years, additional programs and benefits have been authorized. This current demonstration has approval through June 30, 2027.

Goals and Objectives

Over the five-year approval period, Utah seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Provide health care coverage for low-income Utahns eligible under the demonstration who would not otherwise have access to, or be able to afford, health care coverage;
- Improve beneficiary health outcomes and quality of life;
- Lower the uninsured rate of low income Utahns;
- Provide continuity of coverage for individuals eligible under the demonstration;
- Increase access to primary care;
- Reduce uncompensated care provided by Utah hospitals;
- Reduce barriers to health care and housing, an important social determinant of health;
- Increase the utilization of preventive dental services, while reducing emergency dental procedure costs;
- Improve access to services across the continuum of care;
- Provide for better care coordination for individuals transitioning to community-based care;
- Reduce the utilization of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings for treatment where utilization is preventable or medically inappropriate; and
- Reduce the overdose death rate.
- Improve access to fertility preservation services for Medicaid eligible individuals diagnosed with cancer, as well as access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) services for individuals diagnosed with certain genetic disorders.

Amendments and Transparency

States must go through an amendment application process in order to make changes to the 1115 Waiver. The application process includes:

- Completing a written request (amendment)
- Typically generate through legislation (but also internal)

The Affordable Care Act requires opportunity for public comment and greater transparency of the section 1115 demonstration projects. The process for ensuring public input into the development and approval of new 1115 demonstrations (as well as extensions of existing demonstrations) includes:

- Public hearings
 - Consultation with Indian Tribes and the Urban Indian Organization
 - 30-day public notice and comment period
 - Submit amendment to CMS
 - Comments submitted with amendment.
 - 30-day federal comment period
 - CMS review
 - Negotiation
 - Approval or denial
 - If approved, develop and implement the demonstration
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Budget Neutrality

Demonstrations must be “budget neutral” to the Federal government, which means that during the demonstration period, Federal Medicaid expenditures may not be more than Federal spending without the demonstration.

What does it cover?

Below are examples of Utah's 1115 Waiver programs and benefits*:

- Adult Expansion (AE)
- Housing Related Services and Supports (for the Targeted Adult Medicaid Population) (HRSS)
- Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment (SUD)
- Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM)
- Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP)
- Utah Medicaid Integrated Care (UMIC)

Recently approved:

- Fertility Preservation for Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer
- In Vitro Fertilization and Genetic Testing Services
- Medicaid Coverage for Justice Involved Populations

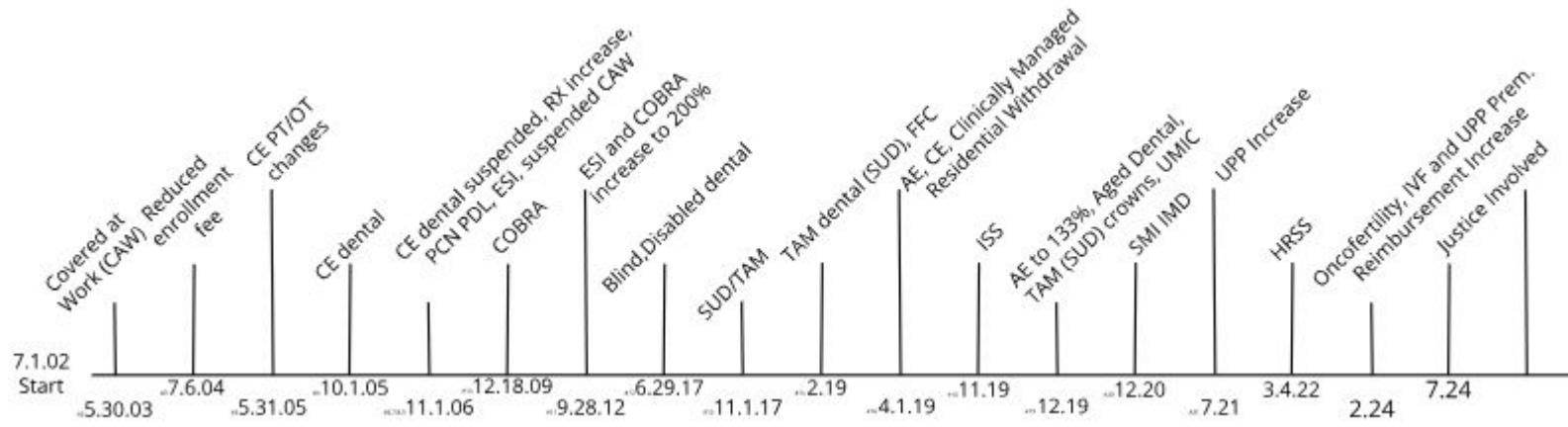
*For a full list of Utah's 1115 Waiver programs, please visit <https://medicaid.utah.gov/1115-waiver/>

Pending Amendment Requests

Below are examples of Utah's 1115 Waiver amendment applications pending a decision from CMS:

- Dental Coverage for Medicaid-Eligible Adults
- Family Planning Services

*For a full list of Utah's pending 1115 Waiver applications, please visit <https://medicaid.utah.gov/1115-waiver/>



Amendment Approval Timeline

Monitoring and Evaluation

CMS conducts reviews to monitor implementation progress and conducts evaluations on most demonstrations to examine their impacts on beneficiaries, providers, health plans, states, including impacts on access, quality of care, and costs.

- CMS provides reporting requirements on reports and evaluations.
 - Special terms and conditions (STCs) for each state further specify CMS' expectations for the contents and timing of evaluation designs and interim and summative evaluation reports as well as quarterly and annual monitoring reports.
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DIH Process Overview

1. Work with assigned office staff to review STCs.
2. Begin program development with staff assigned to amendment.
 - a. Use STCs as guide to determine monitoring metrics.
 - b. Create quality improvement strategy (QIS)
 - c. Determine internal metrics
 - d. System, policy, etc.
3. Implement demonstration
4. Ongoing check-in meetings
5. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation

Additional Information

For additional information, please visit:

- <https://medicaid.utah.gov/1115-waiver/> (Utah's 1115 website)
- <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/index.html> (CMS 1115 website)

For questions regarding the 1115 Waiver, please email:

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Questions?