

Medicaid Director's Office Updates

MCAC Meeting

September 19, 2024

Policy Updates

Private Duty Nursing (PDN)

- PDN services are medically necessary skilled nursing care for eligible Medicaid members. The services are designed to prevent prolonged institutional care.
- PDN can be granted for an acute phase (immediately after hospital discharge), and a continuous phase.
 - In the continuous phase, Members are eligible for a certain amount of hours based on an acuity grid.
- In the 2023 General Session, the Legislature [appropriated funding](#) to increase the hours for acute and continuous PDN care. Utah Medicaid increased hours at that time, but embarked on a long-term project to improve the acuity grid.
- After several rounds of stakeholder feedback, we have finalized our updates to the acuity grid and published [the new grid](#) this month.
 - Among other things, this will allow for more granularity to assign point values for specific respiratory needs, mobility assistance, and medication management.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

- As a reminder, the EPSDT program is a critical component of Medicaid, ensuring that children and young adults have access to necessary healthcare from birth through the end of the month in which their 21st birthday occurs.
- Our medical policy team has been working on a comprehensive EPSDT manual improvement project, with focus on the following items:
 - Better align with CMS EPSDT publication recommendations.
 - Enhance information related to coverage typically found in other manuals to the EPSDT manual.
 - Outline additional resources for the treating practitioners of EPSDT members that work in collaboration with Medicaid.
- The EPSDT manual updates are being published this month.

- Future EPSDT updates will include website content and flyers to continue improving community awareness of EPSDT benefits.
- We are also anticipating CMS guidance later this month that will be used for program improvements.

Other Updates

2023 American Community Survey (ACS) Data Release

- The U.S. Census Bureau released [2023 ACS 1-Year estimates](#) on Sept. 12.
- This is a measure of insurance coverage in Utah and is published annually.
- As the committee knows, 2023 was a transitional year with about 4 months of Public Health Emergency and 8 months of Unwinding.
- In 2023, 8.0% \pm 0.4 of Utahns were uninsured—essentially unchanged from 2022 (8.1%).
- Among Utahns below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 15.7% \pm 1.7 were uninsured in 2023.
 - This is a two percentage point increase from 2022, but not statistically significant due to overlapping margins of error.
- There are additional demographic breakdowns available.