



Substance Abuse Benefits for Adults

Presentation to the Association of Substance Abuse Programs

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Review of Current Medicaid Coverage of Substance Abuse Services

General Coverage

Children

- Outpatient chemical dependency counseling
- Outpatient behavioral health, screening, counseling, and psychotherapy
- Inpatient detoxification

Note: Children may receive any medically necessary service beyond those listed above under the provision of the Federal Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment law.

Adults

- Outpatient behavioral health screening, counseling, and psychotherapy
- Inpatient detoxification in an acute care hospital when services are provided as part of the treatment plan for an acute medical condition

Managed Care Coverage

Health plans, which operate under the authority of a federal waiver, also provide limited substance abuse coverage, beyond those previously noted for adults and children as a value-added service. These services are provided at the plan's discretion in lieu of other medical services.



NorthSTAR Waiver Program

The NorthSTAR program, which operates under the authority of a 1915(b) federal waiver, provides coverage for substance abuse services to Medicaid enrollees in the in Dallas and contiguous counties (Collin, Hunt, Rockwall, Kaufman, Ellis, and Navarro counties) service areas.

NorthSTAR Coverage

The following services are available through the NorthSTAR program:

- Clinical assessment
- Medically monitored detoxification
- Residential rehabilitation services
- Outpatient rehabilitation services
- Pharmacological maintenance therapy
- Specialized women and children rehabilitation services.

Public Non-Medicaid Substance Abuse Coverage in Texas

Public Coverage

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant covers ambulatory and residential detoxification services, residential treatment, outpatient counseling (individual and group), medication assisted treatment, and specialized treatment for targeted populations. The grant provides services to individuals enrolled in Medicaid and indigent populations.

Background on Origins of 2009 Substance Abuse Legislation



Legislative Budget Board Study

The Legislative Budget Board's (LBB) *2009 Texas State Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report* found:

- Less than a quarter of adults in Medicaid with a diagnosis of substance abuse received treatment in 2006;
- Individuals with substance abuse disorders have double the medical expenses of those without a substance abuse disorder; and
- Individuals with a substance abuse disorder can be properly managed with treatment.

Study's Conclusion

The study concluded that Texas Medicaid should amend the Medicaid state plan to provide coverage of substance abuse treatment for adults and the cost of treatment could be offset by reductions in other Medicaid spending due to declines in the use of the medical services for individuals receiving treatment.

Review of 2009 Substance Abuse Legislation in Texas

The 2010-11 General Appropriations Act

(Article IX, Section 17.15 of S.B. 1) directs HHSC

to:

- provide Comprehensive Substance Abuse Services in Medicaid to adults with substance abuse disorders; and
- analyze and provide data to the LBB on the provisions of substance abuse services and discontinue the benefit if services increase overall Medicaid expenditures.

Comprehensive Substance Abuse Benefits

Required Benefits

SB 796 (81st R) defined the comprehensive service array as:

- *assessment,*
- *residential and outpatient detoxification,*
- *methadone maintenance,*
- *residential services,*
- *specialized residential services for women,*
- *outpatient chemical dependency counseling,*
- *and any other necessary services as defined by the department.*

Benefit Development and Implementation

Benefit Development

HHSC staff is currently researching requirements and regulations related to:

- The provision of services in Institutions of Mental Disease;
- The provision of services in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities settings; and
- Federal limitations on coverage for room and board.

Next Steps include:

- Ongoing research and data collection
- Stakeholder outreach to identify risks, issues, and concerns

Implementation Processes

- **State Plan Amendment (SPA)**
- **Rules development and adoption**
- **Policy development and implementation**
- **Rate setting**
- **Provide enrollment**
- **Contract Amendments**
- **Waiver Amendments**
- **System modifications and benefit implementation**

Information Sources

- **2009 Texas State Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report.** “Increase Access to Substance Abuse Treatment for Adult Medicaid Clients”. Texas Legislative Budget Board, 2009.
http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Performance%20Reporting/TX_Govt_Effective_Efficiency_Report_81th_0109.pdf
- **2010-11 General Appropriations Act** (Article IX, Section 17.15, of S.B. 1, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009)
http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Bill_81/5_Conference/Bill-81-5_Conference_0509.pdf
- **S.B. 796**, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=SB796>