

Letter of Direction #80

Date: April 11, 2022

To: Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations

From: Nicole Comeaux, Director, Medical Assistance Division 

Subject: School Based Health Centers (SBHC) Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Inventory Pilot Project

Title: SBHC LARC Inventory Pilot Project

The purpose of this letter of direction is to provide the Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations (CC 2.0 MCOs) with information on implementing the School Based Health Centers (SBHC) Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) Inventory Pilot Project effective November 1, 2021.

In collaboration with the University of New Mexico LARC Mentoring Program (LMP) and StellarRx, HSD is piloting a project to improve the reproductive autonomy of an individual through same-day access to all methods including LARC with a focus on selected SBHC sites and a goal to reduce unintended teen (13 to 19 years of age) pregnancy. The collaboration will address the upfront cost of devices (Buy and Bill) which is one of the critical barriers perpetuating our nation's high unplanned pregnancy rates which negatively impact an individual's access to the most effective forms of contraception. This pilot project eliminates this problem with a point of care solution which provides patients and clinicians with cost-free access to a complete inventory of LARCs making family planning available in a single visit.

LMP seeks to improve access to contraceptive implants and IUDs for all people of reproductive age in New Mexico (NM). LMP trains primary care providers in LARC procedures and works to reduce administrative barriers that prevent people from accessing LARC in their home communities which makes them a central partner in this pilot project.

StellarRx is a unique diversified healthcare company who partners with healthcare stakeholders to increase access to essential family planning services by providing medications and medical devices at point of care for vulnerable populations. Stellar Rx received a specialty pharmacy license to operate in NM to provide point-of-care stocking and dispensing for LARC through an electronic dispensing unit.

The general workflow of this pilot project, which is subject to additional details based on the needs of the provider and as determined by the SBHC LARC Inventory Pilot Project workgroup, includes:

1. Member selects a LARC device.
2. The Stellar Rx Xpedose In-Office Dispensing Process begins with a prescription submission, patient approval, and removal of the selected LARC device from the dispensing unit.
3. Provider submits a medical claim for administration of the LARC device.
4. MCO's collect and report claims data on a regular basis for pilot project monitoring.
5. Provider receives LARC inventory and loads LARC inventory into the dispensing unit.

SUPPORTING THE WORKFLOW OF THIS LMP

A. Stellar Rx shall:

1. Maintain a specialty pharmacy license to operate in NM to provide point-of-care stocking and dispensing for LARC through an electronic dispensing unit, located in each of the selected SBHCs;
2. Provide a dispensing unit programed to unique parameters to each selected SBHC;
3. Provide training and technical assistance to selected SBHCs;
4. Maintain stock of LARC devices for each selected SBHC;
5. Provide monthly utilization data; and
6. Send relevant staff and representative to participate with the SBHC LARC Inventory Pilot Project workgroup.

B. MCOs shall:

1. Execute contracts with StellarRx necessary to implement this pilot project;
2. Collaborate with StellarRx to establish claims processing;
3. Submit SBHC LARC Inventory reports per HSD's instruction that will be issued with this LOD as a template. The first report will be due April 30, 2022 to include November and December 2021 and Q1CY22. The following reports to be due the 30th of the following month in which the quarter ends. Frequency of reporting is subject to change as directed by HSD; and
4. Send relevant staff and representative to participate with the SBHC LARC Inventory Pilot Project workgroup.

C. Selected SBHC providers shall:

1. Execute a contract with MCOs;
2. Execute an agreement with LMP;
3. Execute an agreement with StellarRx; and
4. Provide contact information and provider information necessary for the implementation of this project.

D. LMP shall:

1. Provide LARC training to selected SBHC;
2. Provide pilot project assessment;
3. Provider utilization survey for baseline and ongoing information;
4. Provide oversight to assure development of clinical protocols and documentation templates; and
5. Provide technical assistance with billing, coding, and support for clinic flow.

This LOD will sunset with the next iteration of this SBHC LARC Inventory Pilot Project LOD.