

The New Mexico Human Services Department (the Department) through the Medical Assistance Division (MAD) is providing this notice for the purpose of receiving comments through November 30, 2015, regarding its proposed Medicaid State Plan amendment to add Health Homes services as a Medicaid program benefit known as CareLink NM Health Homes.

It is the Department's intention to have an effective date of January 1, 2016 for SPA 15-14. The Department does not anticipate a negative service or financial impact to individuals or health care providers with this proposed amendment. It is estimated that SPA 15-14's average annual Year 1 cost to the Medicaid program for each CareLink NM Health Home will be between \$1.8 and \$2.1 million dollars.

**Highlights:**

**Generally Health Homes (known as CareLink NM) will:**

- Assist an eligible recipient by engaging him or her in comprehensive needs assessments which are then utilized to develop his or her integrated service plan and individual treatment plans;
- Increase his or her access to health education and promotion activities;
- Monitor his or her treatment outcomes and utilization of resources;
- Coordinate appointments with his or her primary care and specialty practitioners;
- Share information among his or her physical and behavioral practitioners to reduce the duplication of services;
- Engage him or her in learning how to manage transitions between services; and
- Participate, as appropriate, in the development of his or her hospital discharge plan.

**Provider Agencies**

HSD proposes to allow a provider agency which has been certified to render Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS) to apply for a CareLink NM designation. The provider agency must complete a readiness assessment and be approved by the CareLink NM Steering Committee.

HSD proposes to initially limit CareLink NM to provider agencies based in either San Juan or Curry counties which provide CCSS to eligible recipients in those counties. The rationale to limit provider enrollment at this time is to work through the organizational and implementation challenges of launching a new service. HSD anticipates expansion to other counties and/or tribal communities of CareLink NM services as the program develops.

**Identified Population:**

HSD proposes to provide CareLink NM services to two of the most vulnerable populations: eligible recipients meeting the criteria for serious mental illness (SMI) or those with severe emotional disturbance (SED). Historically, the utilization of hospital emergency departments as well as public institutions is higher for these populations and suggests the need for more intensive care coordination services.

## Covered Services

CareLink NM will cover services in five categories:

1. Comprehensive care management.
2. Care coordination and health promotion.
3. Comprehensive transitional care.
4. Individual eligible recipient and family support services.
5. Referrals for the eligible recipient to community and social support services.

## Noncovered Services

Any CareLink NM services rendered during an eligible recipient's stay in an acute care or freestanding psychiatric hospital and a residential treatment facility (not to include foster care and treatment foster care placements), except when part of the eligible recipient's transition plan, are considered non-covered services in this program. Services which duplicate other MAD services, including care coordination activities that the Managed Care Organization has not delegated to the provider agency, are not covered services.

CareLink NM services promote health education so that the eligible recipient obtains the skills and knowledge to better manage his or her physical or behavioral needs, including areas such as nutrition; developing and implementing healthier lifestyle behaviors and expanding interactions with community networks. Additionally, services include comprehensive transitional care for an eligible recipient who is moving from a hospital or residential setting back into the community. Family members will also receive support services to help them to effectively advocate on behalf of and with the eligible recipient. CareLink NM staff will assist the eligible recipient to build a network of community and social supports in order to successfully transition from CareLink NM services to lower levels of care.

Interested parties may view the proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment on the Department's website at

<http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/public-notice-proposed-rule-and-waiver-changes-and-opportunities-to-comment.aspx> and <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/LookingForInformation/medical-assistance-division-state-plan.aspx>.

### Interested parties may submit written comments directly to:

Human Services Department  
Office of the Secretary  
ATT: Medical Assistance Division Public Comments  
P.O. Box 2348  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348.

Recorded comments may be left by calling (505) 827-1337. Electronic comments may be submitted to [madrules@state.nm.us](mailto:madrules@state.nm.us). **All comments must be received no later than November 30, 2015, 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.**

If you are a person with a disability and you require this information in an alternative format, please contact the MAD toll-free number at 1-888-997-2583 and ask for extension 7-6252. In Santa Fe, call 827-6252. The Department's TDD system may be accessed toll-free at 1-200-659-8331 or in Santa Fe, by calling 827-3184. The Department requests at least 10 working days advance notice to provide requested alternative formats. If you do not have Internet access, a copy of the proposed State Plan Amendment may be requested by contacting MAD at (505) 827-6252 or at 888-997-2583 asking for extension 7-6252.