



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Children with Autism Waiver

On September 14, 2015 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a notice of denial for the Department's proposed expansion of the Children with Autism Waiver. CMS denied the proposed waiver expansion because they believe the services provided in the autism waiver should be covered in our EPSDT program.

Children currently receiving services on the waiver are not impacted by this decision.

While we are disappointed by this decision, we are committed to providing all medically necessary services to children regardless of their diagnosis. The information below outlines how services deemed medically necessary, but not currently covered by Medicaid state plan, can be approved on a case-by-case basis through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Program.

EPSDT provides a comprehensive array of preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services for eligible infants, children and adolescents under age 21, as specified in Section 1905(r) of the Social Security Act (the Act). The EPSDT program is more robust than the Medicaid state plan benefit and is designed to assure that children receive early detection and care, so that health problems are prevented or diagnosed and treated as early as possible. The goal of EPSDT is to assure that children get the health care they need when they need it – the right care to the right child at the right time in the right setting.

Services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy as well as all other covered benefits for physical, behavioral health and oral health will continue to be available under Medicaid state plan.

How to request Autism Spectrum Disorder services under the EPSDT Program:

- Consult with your provider to determine what your provider feels is medically necessary for your child based on his or her individual needs. The provider will work with you to choose the appropriate service, which could include behavioral therapy services.
- Your provider will need to submit a Prior Authorization Request (PAR) via the online PAR portal. More information can be found on the Department website

Our mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.

www.colorado.gov/hcpf



at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/colorado-prior-authorization-requests-program-co-par>. You should work with your provider to ensure all necessary clinical information is submitted with the PAR.

- The PAR will be reviewed by licensed clinical reviewers who will assess if the requested service is medically necessary.
- Your provider will receive notification of the PAR determination through the online PAR portal messaging center. The PAR determination letter will be mailed directly to you and your provider. The PAR determination letter will contain client appeal rights if the PAR was denied.

Questions

If you have specific questions about the Children with Autism Waiver please contact Candace Bailey at Candace.Bailey@state.co.us or [303-866-3877](tel:303-866-3877).

If you have specific questions about the EPSDT process please contact Gina Robinson at Gina.Robinson@state.co.us [303-866-6167](tel:303-866-6167).

