

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice of Proposed Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA)

SPA 22-P: Coverage and Reimbursement of Community Violence Prevention Services

The State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) proposes to submit the following Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Changes to Medicaid State Plan

Effective on or after July 1, 2022, SPA 22-P amends Attachments 3.1-A, 3.1-B, and 4.19-B of the Connecticut Medicaid State Plan to add coverage and reimbursement for a new service category of community violence prevention services when performed by a qualified certified violence prevention professional (VPP), as detailed below. Specifically, in accordance with state law in section 17b-28j of the Connecticut General Statutes (which was added to state law by Public Act 21-36), this SPA adds Medicaid coverage of community violence prevention services when the services are referred by a qualified licensed health care practitioner for Medicaid beneficiaries who have received medical treatment for an injury sustained as a result of community violence. The purpose of this SPA is to implement that state law and to help mitigate and prevent community violence and its effects on Medicaid members and the broader community. This SPA is being added within the preventive services federal Medicaid State Plan benefit category defined in federal regulation at 42 C.F.R. § 440.130(c) and, in accordance with that regulation, these services are recommended by a physician or other qualified licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the practitioner's scope of practice under state law and are designed to prevent further impacts of community violence, prevent future community violence, prolong life, and promote the physical and mental health and efficiency of the individual.

Covered services include screening; assessment of needs; development of individualized service plan; peer support; counseling, including counseling to address and mitigate the impact of trauma; mentorship; conflict mediation; crisis intervention; patient education; discharge planning; and care coordination. This service must be performed and billed by a community violence prevention billing provider entity that (1) employs or contracts with VPPs who are certified through a program approved by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) who perform the covered services and (2) complies with all of the entity qualifications specified in the SPA pages.

Community violence prevention services rendered by certified VPPs will be billed with procedure code H0046 (Mental health services, not otherwise specified) in 15-minute increments and paid \$12.65 per 15 minutes. This rate was calculated based on estimated costs to perform the services.

In order to add coverage for this service to the benefit package for the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) for the Medicaid expansion population (also known as HUSKY D), DSS will also submit a SPA to amend the ABP to add this service category, which will be in SPA 22-AD.

Fiscal Impact

DSS estimates that this SPA will increase annual aggregate Medicaid expenditures by approximately \$566,990 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 and \$680,388 in SFY 2024.

Obtaining SPA Language and Submitting Comments

This SPA is posted on the DSS web site at the following link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicaid-State-Plan-Amendments>. The proposed SPA may also be obtained at any DSS field office, at the Town of Vernon Social Services Department, or upon request from DSS (see below).

To request a copy of the SPA from DSS or to send comments about the SPA, please email: Public.Comment.DSS@ct.gov or write to: Department of Social Services, Medical Policy Unit, 55 Farmington Avenue, 9th Floor, Hartford, CT 06105. Please reference “SPA 22-P: Coverage and Reimbursement of Community Violence Prevention Services”.

Anyone may send DSS written comments about this SPA. Written comments must be received by DSS at the above contact information no later than June 15, 2022.

State: CONNECTICUT
AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED
CATEGORICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

13.c. Preventive Services

(3) Community Violence Prevention Services

A. General Description

Community violence prevention services are described below, which are provided by a certified violence prevention professional (VPP) to a Medicaid beneficiary who has received treatment for an injury (which includes both medical and behavioral health treatment for a physical and/or behavioral health injury) sustained as a result of an act of community violence for the purpose of promoting improved health outcomes and positive behavioral change and preventing further violence. As part of the determination of medical necessity and coverage, these services must be referred by a qualified licensed health care practitioner based on a determination that the beneficiary is at elevated risk of a violent injury or retaliation resulting from another act of community violence. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 440.130(c), these services are recommended by a physician or other qualified licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the practitioner's scope of practice under state law and are designed to prevent further impacts of community violence, prevent future community violence, prolong life, and promote the physical and mental health and efficiency of the individual.

B. Assessment and Service Plan

As soon as practicable after the certified VPP becomes aware that community violence prevention services may be medically necessary for a beneficiary, the certified VPP assesses the beneficiary's needs for VPP services based on information from the beneficiary and other available appropriate individuals, including, but not limited to, family and other natural supports, health providers, and other relevant individuals. Based on the assessment, the certified VPP prepares an individualized service plan for VPP services for the beneficiary based on that person's unique needs, which may be updated as needed.

State: CONNECTICUT
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CATEGORICALLY NEEDY GROUP(S): ALL

C. Service Description

Community violence prevention services are evidence-based, trauma-informed, supportive and non-psychotherapeutic services provided by a certified violence prevention professional in any appropriate setting, for the purpose of promoting improved health outcomes and positive behavioral change, preventing further injury and future violence. The services are tailored for each person based on the individualized service plan. Covered services include: screening; assessment of needs; development of individualized service plan; peer support; counseling, including counseling to address and mitigate the impact of trauma; mentorship; conflict mediation; crisis intervention; patient education; discharge planning; and care coordination services that are part of the community violence prevention services and which facilitate the beneficiary's access to appropriate services, including medical, behavioral health, social, and other necessary services, all of which are designed to prevent further impacts of community violence, prevent future community violence, prolong life, and promote the beneficiary's physical and mental health in accordance with the individualized service plan. When clinically appropriate, more than one certified VPP may be required to deliver necessary services to the same person at the same time or on the same date of service. When more than one certified VPP is clinically necessary at the same time or on the same date of service, the service(s) delivered by each certified VPP must be covered as outlined in this section and the services of each certified VPP must be documented in the provider's records, including to identify the specific covered service(s) performed by each certified VPP.

D. Provider Qualifications

1. Entity Qualifications: In order to be paid for providing community violence prevention services, the billing provider entity must meet all of the following:
 - a. Be a business entity (including a nonprofit organization) or municipality organized or registered in good standing under state law;
 - b. Have experience providing community violence prevention services for at least twelve months in Connecticut;
 - c. Maintain an affiliation with at least one trauma level I or II licensed short-term general hospital or children's hospital in Connecticut through which the

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- provider entity is authorized to provide community violence prevention services to beneficiaries in the hospital; and
- d. Have on staff at least one supervisor who is certified as a VPP in accordance with state law and has experience providing community violence prevention services for not less than three years and who supervises the provision of community violence prevention services by the provider entity.
 - e. Ensure that community violence prevention services are performed by practitioners who meet the qualifications detailed immediately below.
2. VPP Qualifications: Obtain and maintain certification as a VPP in accordance with state law, including complying with all applicable requirements for ongoing certification.

E. Exclusions

Community violence prevention services do not include services that:

- a. Are of an unproven, experimental, cosmetic or research nature.
- b. Do not relate to the individual's needs for services.
- c. Are solely educational, vocational, recreational, or social.

F. Free Choice of Provider

Each individual for whom the services described in this section are medically necessary has a free choice of any provider qualified to perform the service or services required (qualifications described above), who undertakes to provide such services and who is enrolled as a Medicaid provider.

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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State: CONNECTICUT

13.c. Preventive Services

(3) Community Violence Prevention Services

Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers of community violence prevention services. The agency's fee schedule rates were set as of July 1, 2022 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. All rates are published on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program website: <https://www.ctdssmap.com>. From this web page, go to "Provider," then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download," then select the applicable fee schedule.