

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
JFK Federal Building, Government Center  
Room 2275  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203



**Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations / Boston Regional Office**

May 8, 2017

Roderick Bremby, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services  
55 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06105

RECEIVED  
State of Connecticut

MAY 12 2017

Dept. of Social Services  
Commissioner's Office

Dear Commissioner Bremby:

We are pleased to enclose a copy of approved Connecticut State Plan Amendment (SPA) No 16-0016A, submitted to my office on September 30, 2016 and approved on May 3, 2017. This SPA amends Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan in order to reflect a new outpatient hospital reimbursement methodology effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2016. Under this SPA, outpatient hospital services are reimbursed using an ambulatory payment classification (APC) system based on Medicare's system but modified for Connecticut's Medicaid program. The system uses national weights and a statewide conversion factor that is the same for every hospital, plus an adjustment for the geographic wage index based on the county in which the hospital is located. Some services, such as behavioral health, are paid outside the APC methodology using Medicaid fee schedules. DSS does not anticipate that this SPA will change federal Medicaid expenditures because reimbursement rates under the new payment methodology were calculated to be revenue neutral overall. This SPA modernizes the outpatient hospital payment methodology and aligns Medicaid more closely to Medicare and other payers.

This SPA has been approved effective July 1, 2016, as requested by the State.

Changes are reflected in the following sections of your approved State Plan:

- Attachment 4.19-B Page 1
- Addendum Page 1 to Attachment 4.19-B Page 1
- Addendum Pages 1 a thru 1e to Attachment 4.19-B Page 1

If you have any questions regarding this matter you may contact Marie DiMartino (617) 565-9157 or by e-mail at [Marie.DiMartino@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Marie.DiMartino@cms.hhs.gov)

Page 2 – Roderick Bremby, Commissioner

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard R. McGreal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R" and a distinct "G" in "Greal".

Richard R. McGreal  
Associate Regional Administrator

cc: Kate McEvoy, Director of Medical Administration - Health Services and Supports

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL  
OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL  
FOR: HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION**

I. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER:

16-0016A

2. STATE: CT

II. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE XIX OF THE  
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (MEDICAID)

TO: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

III. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:  
July 1, 2016

5. TYPE OF STATE PLAN MATERIAL (Check One):

NEW STATE PLAN       AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AS NEW PLAN       AMENDMENT

COMPLETE BLOCKS 6 THRU 10 IF THIS IS AN AMENDMENT (Separate Transmittal for each amendment)

6. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION:  
Section 1905(a)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act and  
42 CFR 440.20(a)

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT:  
a. FFY 2016 \$0  
b. FFY 2017 \$0

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 4.19B Page 1  
Addendum Page 1 to Attachment 4.19-B Page 1  
Addendum Pages 1a thru 1e to Attachment 4.19-B Page 1

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR  
ATTACHMENT (If applicable)

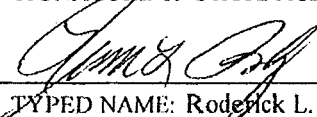
Attachment 4.19B Page 1  
Addendum Page 1 to Attachment 4.19-B Page 1  
Addendum Pages 1a thru 1e to Attachment 4.19-B Page 1

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT: Effective July 1, 2016, SPA 16-0016-A amends Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan in order to reflect a new outpatient hospital reimbursement methodology effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2016. Under this SPA, outpatient hospital services are reimbursed using an ambulatory payment classification (APC) system based on Medicare's system but modified for Connecticut's Medicaid program. The system uses national weights and a statewide conversion factor that is the same for every hospital, plus an adjustment for the geographic wage index based on the county in which the hospital is located. Some services, such as behavioral health, are paid outside the APC methodology using Medicaid fee schedules. DSS does not anticipate that this SPA will change federal Medicaid expenditures because reimbursement rates under the new payment methodology were calculated to be revenue neutral overall. This SPA modernizes the outpatient hospital payment methodology and aligns Medicaid more closely to Medicare and other payers.

11. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One):

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT       OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:  
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED  
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

12. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL:



13. TYPED NAME: Roderick L. Bremby

14. TITLE: Commissioner

15. DATE SUBMITTED:  
September 30, 2016

16. RETURN TO:

State of Connecticut  
Department of Social Services  
55 Farmington Avenue - 9th floor  
Hartford, CT 06105  
Attention: Ginny Mahoney

**FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY**

17. DATE RECEIVED: September 30, 2016

18. DATE APPROVED: May 3, 2017

**PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED**

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL:  
July 1, 2016

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL:



21. TYPED NAME: Richard R. McGreal

22. TITLE: Associate Regional Administrator  
Division of Medicaid & Children's Health Operations

23. REMARKS: State requests pen and ink change to box 1 and box 10 adding an A to the SPA number as the SPA has been split into two parts (A and B)

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT  
State Connecticut

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## METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES—OTHER TYPES OF CARE

**(2) (a) Outpatient hospital services –**

Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2016, the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement methodology described in this section applies to all outpatient hospital services, except for publicly operated outpatient hospital psychiatric services as described further below in the outpatient hospital section of Attachment 4.19-B. Within CMAP OPPS, an Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) reimbursement methodology shall apply to all outpatient services except as otherwise provided in CMAP Addendum B, as explained below. Except as otherwise noted in the plan, state-developed fee schedules and rate methods are the same for both governmental and private providers.

**Definitions**

1. “APC” or “Ambulatory Payment Classification” means the classification of clinically similar outpatient hospital services that can be expected to consume similar amounts of hospital resources and serves as one of the methods of payment under CMAP OPPS.
2. “APC conversion factor” means a set dollar amount determined by the department that is used as the basis for calculating the payment for outpatient hospital services based on the APC payment methodology.
3. “APC grouper” means the program that assigns each service on an outpatient claim an APC if appropriate, as well as assigning a status indicator that specifies if and how the provider will be reimbursed for a service.
4. “APC relative weight” means the relative value assigned to each APC and is the same as Medicare’s weight.
5. “CMAP Addendum B” means the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program’s document that lists HCPCS codes and describes payment information regarding outpatient hospital services.
6. “CMAP’s Outpatient Prospective Payment System” or “OPPS” means the department’s outpatient prospective payment system for outpatient hospital services as described in this section, which is the department’s prospectively-determined payment system for outpatient hospital services that are reimbursed using APCs, the applicable fee schedule or such other prospective payment methodology as established by the department as described in CMAP Addendum B.
7. “Wage index” means the index published by CMS pursuant to 42 USC 1395ww(d)(3)(E) but not including any adjustments for geographic reclassification of hospitals to other labor market areas.

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Supersedes

TN # 16-0008

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT  
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**Overall Payment Methodology**

1. Outpatient hospital services are provided pursuant to 42 CFR 440.20(a).
2. No inflation, inflationary factor, or any other automatic increase is included in any reimbursement for outpatient hospital services. Reimbursement is solely based upon the methodology described below.
3. Reimbursement for outpatient hospital services and other services prior to inpatient hospital admission.
  - a. Except as provided in subdivision b. of this subsection, reimbursement for inpatient hospital services includes payment for all outpatient hospital services provided by the hospital or another hospital that is an affiliated hospital at any location, including the hospital's main campus and any satellite location, on the date of admission and the two days prior to the date of admission, which shall not be separately reimbursed by the department and shall be billed as part of the inpatient hospital stay.
  - b. The department pays a hospital or an affiliated hospital separately for the following services provided on the date of admission but before the actual admission and the two days prior to the date of admission: Any service clinically unrelated to the admission, maintenance renal dialysis, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology services, audiology services, routine psychotherapy, electroconvulsive therapy (except if the electroconvulsive therapy causes the admission), psychological testing, neuropsychological testing, intermediate care programs and any other category of service specifically designated on the outpatient hospital fee schedule referenced below.
4. The department shall pay hospitals for providing outpatient hospital services using CMAP OPPS. As determined and designated by the department, services are paid using one or more of the following methodologies and in accordance with the department's fee schedules and payment rules as defined in CMAP Addendum B, which is posted to [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com):
  - a. APC payment based on Medicare's system as modified for CMAP, as detailed below;
  - b. A fee on the department's fee schedule for outpatient hospitals, which has been updated as of July 1, 2016 and is posted to [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com);
  - c. A fee on one of the department's fee schedules other than the outpatient hospital fee schedule. For each service that is paid using a fee schedule, CMAP Addendum B specifies the applicable fee schedule, which is updated as of the effective date listed in the applicable section of Attachment 4.19-B and is also posted to [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com); or
  - d. Other prospective payment as included in CMAP Addendum B.

TN # 16-0016-A

Approval Date 05/03/2017 Effective Date 07/01/2016

Supersedes

TN # 11-017

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT  
State Connecticut**Payment Rate and Limitations for Hospitals Reimbursed Using APCs**

The CMAP APC system is based on Medicare's Addendum B (OPPS payment by HCPCS code as modified and reflected in CMAP Addendum B), Addendum A (list of APCs) and Addendum D1 (list of payment status indicators) and uses Medicare's APC grouper software. Effective July 1, 2016, APC IOCE Version 17.1 will be used. When Medicare issues subsequent APC IOCE versions, the CMAP APC system will adopt such version with the same effective date as Medicare. In order to implement each such new version, the department will update Addendum B in accordance with such version and in conformance with the existing methodology and policy as reflected in the current version of CMAP Addendum B.

CMAP Addendum B also includes a column entitled "Payment Type" that indicates whether an item is reimbursable based on the APC methodology, the applicable fee schedule or other prospective payment methodology.

1. Effective for services provided on or after July 1, 2016, for applicable services as specified in CMAP Addendum B, the department pays for outpatient hospital services on a fully prospective per service basis using an APC payment methodology in accordance with this section.
2. The statewide conversion factor established by the department is \$82.25 for general acute care children's hospitals and \$71.76 for all other hospitals.
3. The conversion factor is adjusted for the hospital's wage index based on the original Medicare assignment. Medicare reclassifications of the geographic wage index will not be recognized. The wage index is applied to 60% of the conversion factor.
4. Hospitals located outside of Connecticut shall be paid the statewide conversion factor of \$71.76, with no adjustment for the wage index for services reimbursed using APCs, except that if a hospital requests to have the conversion factor adjusted for the hospital's actual wage index, the department may grant such request on a case-by-case basis if the department determines that such adjustment is necessary to ensure access to medically necessary services for a beneficiary. For services reimbursed using a non-APC methodology, hospitals located outside of Connecticut shall be reimbursed in the same manner as hospitals located in Connecticut. However, if the department determines that a service is not available in Connecticut, the department may negotiate payment rates and conditions with such provider, up to, but not exceeding, the provider's usual and customary charges.
5. Observation Services. Observation services shall include not less than eight hours but not greater than forty-eight hours of continuous care. Observation services are reimbursed using APCs. The hospital may bill for ancillary services related to observation only if such services are ordered during the observation stay.

TN # 16-0016-AApproval Date 05/03/2017 Effective Date 07/01/2016

Supersedes

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## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State Connecticut

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6. The APC service payment is calculated as follows:
- a. The relative weight for the assigned APC is multiplied by the wage-adjusted APC conversion factor and by the units of service.
  - b. The resulting amount from a. may be multiplied by a discount factor when the procedure code is APC payable per CMAP Addendum B and has a Medicare status indicator that includes discounting by definition. For example, discounting is applied to the line item services on a claim with multiple procedures/surgeries that are assigned a Medicare status indicator of T. The highest weighted surgery is paid at 100% and additional surgeries are discounted 50% of their APC payment.
  - c. An outpatient service may qualify for an outlier payment. To qualify as an outlier, the cost of the service (defined as covered charges multiplied by the overall hospital-specific cost-to-charge ratio from the Medicare cost report), must exceed both of the following thresholds:
    - i. The multiple threshold. This is defined as the APC payment amount multiplied by 1.75, to be adjusted in accordance with any applicable Medicare adjustments.
    - ii. The fixed-dollar threshold. This is defined as the APC payment plus the fixed dollar threshold of \$2,900 for dates of service from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2017, the fixed dollar amount shall be the same as the Medicare amount, which will be adjusted annually in accordance with Medicare adjustments.

The outlier payment is calculated as 50% of the amount by which the hospital's cost of the service exceeds the multiple threshold amount.

When calculating costs, the cost of an APC service that is packaged and not separately payable, is allocated to the APC payable services on the claim proportionately, based on each line's APC payable amount.

**Services Reimbursed Separately from APC**

1. The department shall not pay a hospital for any service identified as not payable in CMAP Addendum B.
2. The department separately reimburses a hospital using a non-APC payment as designated in CMAP Addendum B for the following:
  - a. All services designated for separate non-APC payment in CMAP Addendum B, including: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology services, behavioral health services, vaccine administration, mammograms, and any other service designated for separate non-APC payment in CMAP Addendum B.

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Supersedes

TN # 11-017

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- b. Practitioners' Professional Services. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph c. immediately below regarding behavioral health services, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, nurse-midwives and podiatrists, each as defined in section 5 or 6, as applicable, of Attachment 3.1-A of the Medicaid State Plan, are required to bill separately for professional services and will be reimbursed in the manner provided for such provider in section 5 or 6, as applicable, of Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan.
- c. Behavioral Health Services. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, behavioral health outpatient hospital services are reimbursed based on the clinic and outpatient behavioral health fee schedule as detailed within the behavioral health clinic methodology in section 9 of Attachment 4.19-B of the Medicaid State Plan. This fee schedule includes higher reimbursement for some services at hospitals that meet the enhanced care clinic (ECC) provider qualifications described below. Unlike medical services, most of the behavioral health services are all-inclusive payments that include payment for both the hospital's facility services and also the practitioners' professional services).
- The only professional services that are reimbursed separately from the payment to the hospital for behavioral health outpatient hospital services are: (1) emergency department evaluation provided by a licensed clinical social worker, psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner / advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or psychologist (each as defined in section 5 or 6, as applicable, of Attachment 3.1-A of the Medicaid State Plan), and (2) the professional component of electroshock treatment billed by psychiatrists or psychiatric nurse practitioners / APRNs. Those practitioners will be paid for such professional services in the manner provided for each applicable type of practitioner in section 5 or 6, as applicable, of Attachment 4.19-B.
- d. Laboratory services provided to hospital non-patients are reimbursed in accordance with section 3 of Attachment 4.19-B.

TN # 16-0016-A

Supersedes

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STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT  
State Connecticut

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**Outpatient Hospital Behavioral Health Enhanced Care Clinics (ECCs)**

There are higher fees for outpatient hospital behavioral health services that meet special access and quality standards as enhanced care clinics (ECCs), as noted in the hospital-specific schedule for each hospital that has an ECC. ECCs must accept all (100%) telephonic and walk-in referrals that present during business hours. All referrals must be screened by a trained intake worker or clinician and triaged to determine whether the referral is emergent, urgent or routine. A clinician must evaluate a client who presents at the clinic with an emergent condition within two (2) hours. Clients that undergo telephonic or walk-in screening and are determined to be in urgent need of services must be offered an appointment for an urgent face-to-face clinical evaluation with a clinician to take place within two (2) calendar days of the screening. Clients that undergo telephonic or walk-in screening and are determined to have routine needs must be offered an appointment for a routine face-to-face clinical evaluation with a clinician to take place within 14 calendar days of the screening. ECCs must have at least nine (9) extended hours per week beyond routine business hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. ECCs that have a valid Letter of Agreement with the department that holds them accountable to the quality standards and access standards receive the enhanced rate for all routine outpatient services provided. The state monitors the access standards on a routine basis and provides access standards reports to the providers on a quarterly basis. The state has established a process for providers to submit corrective action plans (CAPs) if they do not meet the access standards for any reason except an increase in volume in excess of 20% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. ECCs must electronically register appointments made with the Administrative Services Organization (ASO). This process allows for an automated process to track access standards for routine cases. The state also utilizes a mystery shopper process to track access standards. In addition, the state performs on-site chart reviews to determine if providers are in compliance with quality standards and the urgent and emergent access standards. As a result of the on-site reviews, CAPs will be required from providers who do not meet quality or access standards. Fees for services provided to individuals 18 years of age and over are 95% of the published fee for ECCs.

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Supersedes  
TN # 11-017

Approval Date 05/03/2017    Effective Date 07/01/2016

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State Connecticut

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**Supplemental Reimbursement to State Government Owned or Operated General Acute Care Hospitals for Providing Outpatient Hospital Services**

Supplemental payments shall be made to the state government owned and operated hospital for the difference in payments between the CMAP OPPS/APC reimbursement methodology and the previously approved methodology up to the amount of \$8.2 million for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The payments shall be made quarterly.

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