

January 27, 2021

Brian Zolynas  
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health Operations  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)  
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707

**RE: Arizona SPA #21-001, IHS/638 RN AIR**

Dear Mr. Zolynas:

Enclosed is State Plan Amendment (SPA) #21-001, IHS/638 RN AIR, which updates the State Plan to allow the Administration to reimburse IHS/638 facilities at the outpatient all-inclusive rate (AIR) for COVID-19 vaccine administration by registered nurses under an individual or standing order for the duration of the PHE, effective December 1, 2020. Due to the critical need for and the time sensitive nature of this request, the State is formally requesting an expedited review and approval of the attached disaster SPA pages.

If you have any questions about the enclosed SPA, please contact Alex Demyan at (602) 417-4130.

Sincerely,



Dana Flannery  
Assistant Director  
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF  
STATE PLAN MATERIAL  
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER  
2 1 — 0 0 1

2. STATE  
Arizona

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

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

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE  
December 1, 2020

5. TYPE OF 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  
42 CFR Part 447

7. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT  
a. FFY 2021 \$ 23,961,200  
b. FFY 2022 \$ 24,919,600

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT  
Page 90, 91, 97, 97(a)

9. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (*If Applicable*)  
Page 90, 91, 97, 97(a)

10. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

The Administration shall reimburse IHS/638 facilities at the outpatient all-inclusive rate (AIR) for COVID-19 vaccine administration by registered nurses under an individual or standing order.

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  
Dana Flannery

14. TITLE  
Assistant Director

15. DATE SUBMITTED  
1/27/2021

16. RETURN TO

Dana Flannery  
801 E. Jefferson, MD#4200  
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

**FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY**

17. DATE RECEIVED

18. DATE APPROVED

**PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED**

19. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

20. SIGNATURE OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL

21. TYPED NAME

22. TITLE

23. REMARKS

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM CMS-179

Use Form CMS-179 to transmit State plan material to the regional office for approval. A separate typed transmittal form should be completed for each plan/amendment submitted.

**Block 1 - Transmittal Number** - Enter the State Plan Amendment transmittal number. Assign consecutive numbers on a **calendar year** basis (e.g., 92-001, 92-002, etc.).

**Block 2 - State** - Type the name of the State submitting the plan material.

**Block 3 - Program Identification** - Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).

**Block 4 - Proposed Effective Date** - Enter the proposed effective date of material.

**Block 5 - Type of Plan Material** - Check the appropriate box.

**Block 6 - Federal Statute/Regulation Citation** - Enter the appropriate statutory/regulatory citation.

**Block 7 - Federal Budget Impact - 7(a)** - Enter 1st **Federal Fiscal Year** (FFY) impacted by the SPA & estimated Federal share of the cost of the SPA (in thousands) for 1st FFY. **7(b)** - Enter 2nd FFY impacted by the SPA & estimated Federal share of the cost for 2nd FFY. See SMM section 13026.

**Block 8 - Page No.(s) of Plan Section or Attachment** - Enter the page number(s) of plan material transmitted. If additional space is needed, use bond paper.

**Block 9 - Page No.(s) of the Superseded Plan Section or Attachment (if Applicable)** - Enter the page number(s) (including the transmittal sheet number) that is being superseded. If additional space is needed, use bond paper.

**Block 10 - Subject of Amendment** - Briefly describe plan material being transmitted.

**Block 11 - Governor's Review** - Check the appropriate box. See SMM section 13026 B.

**Block 12 - Signature of State Agency Official** - Authorized State official signs this block.

**Block 13 - Typed Name** - Type name of State official who signed block 12.

**Block 14 - Title** - Type title of State official who signed block 12.

**Block 15 - Date Submitted** - Enter the date you mail plan material to RO.

**Block 16 - Return To** - Type the name and address of State official to whom this form should be returned.

**Block 17-23 (FOR REGIONAL OFFICE USE ONLY).**

**Block 17 - Date Received** - Enter the date plan material is received in RO. See ROM section 6003.2.

**Block 18 - Date Approved** - Enter the date RO approved the plan material.

**Block 19 - Effective Date of Approved Material** - Enter the date the plan material becomes effective. If more than one effective date, list each provision and its effective date in Block 23 or attach a sheet.

**Block 20 - Signature of Regional Official** - Approving RO official signs this block.

**Block 21 - Typed Name** - Type approving official's name.

**Block 22 - Title** - Type approving official's title.

**Block 23 - Remarks** - Use this block to reference pen and ink changes, a partial approval, more than one effective date, etc. If additional space is needed, use bond paper.

**Section 7 – General Provisions**  
**7.4. Medicaid Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 National Emergency**

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued a proclamation that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency by the authorities vested in him by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act). On March 13, 2020, pursuant to section 1135(b) of the Act, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services invoked his authority to waive or modify certain requirements of titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act as a result of the consequences COVID-19 pandemic, to the extent necessary, as determined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to ensure that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals enrolled in the respective programs and to ensure that health care providers that furnish such items and services in good faith, but are unable to comply with one or more of such requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, may be reimbursed for such items and services and exempted from sanctions for such noncompliance, absent any determination of fraud or abuse. This authority took effect as of 6PM Eastern Standard Time on March 15, 2020, with a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020. The emergency period will terminate, and waivers will no longer be available, upon termination of the public health emergency, including any extensions.

The State Medicaid agency (agency) seeks to implement the policies and procedures described below, which are different than the policies and procedures otherwise applied under the Medicaid state plan, during the period of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof), or for any shorter period described below:

N/A.

*The flexibilities described in this SPA shall be implemented throughout the duration of the Presidential and Secretarial emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak (or any renewals thereof).*

NOTE: States may not elect a period longer than the Presidential or Secretarial emergency declaration (or any renewal thereof). States may not propose changes on this template that restrict or limit payment, services, or eligibility, or otherwise burden beneficiaries and providers.

**Request for Waivers under Section 1135**

  X   The agency seeks the following under section 1135(b)(1)(C) and/or section 1135(b)(5) of the Act:

- a.   X   SPA submission requirements – the agency requests modification of the requirement to submit the SPA by March 31, 2020, to obtain a SPA effective date during the first calendar quarter of 2020, pursuant to 42 CFR 430.20.
- b.   X   Public notice requirements – the agency requests waiver of public notice requirements that would otherwise be applicable to this SPA submission. These requirements may include those specified in 42 CFR 440.386 (Alternative Benefit Plans),

TN: ~~20-006~~

Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supersedes TN: ~~20-005~~20-031

Effective Date: 3/1/20

- c.  Tribal consultation requirements – the agency requests modification of tribal consultation timelines specified in [Arizona] Medicaid state plan, as described below:

*Current state plan language provides for an expedited Tribal Consultation process in situations that require immediate submission of a policy change to CMS. However, the current language details the Agency soliciting written comment “in the meeting notification with a description of the policy change and the date when the change will be submitted to CMS” at least 14 days prior to submission to CMS. While the Agency did hold an emergency Tribal Consultation meeting to discuss these policy changes, AHCCCS was not able to meet this 14 day requirement prior to submission to CMS, and are thus seeking relevant flexibility.*

**Section A – Eligibility**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ The agency furnishes medical assistance to the following optional groups of individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) or 1902(a)(10)(c) of the Act. This may include the new optional group described at section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XXIII) and 1902(ss) of the Act providing coverage for uninsured individuals.

- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ The agency furnishes medical assistance to the following populations of individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XX) of the Act and 42 CFR 435.218:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ All individuals who are described in section 1905(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XX)

Income standard: \_\_\_\_\_

-or-

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Individuals described in the following categorical populations in section 1905(a) of the Act:

Income standard: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ The agency applies less restrictive financial methodologies to individuals excepted from financial methodologies based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) as follows.

Less restrictive income methodologies:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ The following eligibility groups or categorical populations:

*Please describe.*

*Payment for services delivered via telehealth:*

3.  For the duration of the emergency, the state authorizes payments for telehealth services that:
- a.  Are not otherwise paid under the Medicaid state plan;
  - b.  Differ from payments for the same services when provided face to face;
  - c.  Differ from current state plan provisions governing reimbursement for telehealth;

*Describe telehealth payment variation.*

- d.  Include payment for ancillary costs associated with the delivery of covered services via telehealth, (if applicable), as follows:
  - i.  Ancillary cost associated with the originating site for telehealth is incorporated into fee-for-service rates.
  - ii.  Ancillary cost associated with the originating site for telehealth is separately reimbursed as an administrative cost by the state when a Medicaid service is delivered.

*Other:*

4.  Other payment changes:

- *The Administration shall make interim payments to each hospital to reflect a preliminary, estimated amount for each GME component. The interim payment amount shall be computed as 80.0% of the actual distribution to each hospital for the service period of July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. The Administration will then compute the final, actual GME amounts for the service period July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and adjust the final distribution amounts by the amount of the interim payments already made. The final computation, reconciliation, and distribution will occur no later than one year from June 30, 2020. The federal share of any overpayments are returned to CMS in accordance with 42 CFR 433, Subpart F.*
- *The Administration shall make lump sum payments to registered networks providers who provide nursing facility services with Arizona Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid utilization for the service period during the PHE, and will use October 1,2019 to December 31,2019 as proxy utilization data. Registered network providers which qualify for these increases include all Nursing Facilities (NF), except for Out-of-State nursing facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IIDs) and the Arizona Veteran’s Homes. The lump sum payments are to compensate providers for costs of covered services furnished to Arizona Medicaid beneficiaries to improve the member’s experience of care. Each registered network provider’s lump sum payment shall be determined as follows:*
  1. *Determine each provider’s actual Medicaid bed days based on approved and adjudicated FFS claims from October 1,2019 to December 31,2019.*

2. The uniform dollar increase amount for Nursing Facilities is \$30 per bed day.
3. The Administration will multiply the appropriate uniform dollar increase amount listed in item two by the number of Medicaid bed days as determined in item one to calculate the lump sum payment for each provider.
  - The Administration shall reimburse IHS/638 facilities at the outpatient all-inclusive rate (AIR) for COVID-19 vaccine administration by registered nurses under an individual or standing order.
- 3.

**Section F – Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income**

1. \_\_\_ The state elects to modify the basic personal needs allowance for institutionalized individuals. The basic personal needs allowance is equal to one of the following amounts:
  - a. \_\_\_ The individual's total income
  - b. \_\_\_ 300 percent of the SSI federal benefit rate
  - c. \_\_\_ Other reasonable amount: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_ The state elects a new variance to the basic personal needs allowance. (Note: Election