



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 764

LCO No. 2589



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID PROVIDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-28e of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (d) Not later than October 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Social
4 Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to include services
5 provided by acupuncturists licensed pursuant to section 20-206bb and
6 chiropractors licensed pursuant to section 20-27 as optional services
7 under the Medicaid program.

8 Sec. 2. Section 17b-280c of the general statutes is repealed and the
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

10 (a) For purposes of this section: (1) "Methadone maintenance" means
11 a chemical maintenance program under which an addiction to one drug,
12 including, but not limited to, heroin, is treated with the drug methadone
13 in a weekly program that includes on and off-site methadone
14 administration, drug testing and counseling; and (2) "chemical
15 maintenance provider" means a provider certified and licensed by the

16 federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
17 and the state Department of Public Health who meets all federal and
18 state requirements, including, but not limited to, requirements specific
19 to the provision of chemical maintenance services.

20 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid
21 state plan to provide a minimum weekly reimbursement rate of eighty-
22 eight dollars and fifty-two cents to a chemical maintenance provider for
23 methadone maintenance treatment of a Medicaid beneficiary, provided
24 no such provider receiving a higher rate shall have such rate reduced to
25 the minimum as a result of the implementation of a new minimum
26 reimbursement rate.

27 [(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, on or after July 1,
28 2020, any reimbursement to a chemical maintenance provider for
29 methadone maintenance treatment shall be contingent upon meeting
30 certain performance measures as determined by the commissioner. Such
31 performance measures shall be developed in consultation with the
32 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and chemical
33 maintenance providers. Initial performance measures shall be
34 developed by September 30, 2019, including the means by which such
35 measures shall be evaluated. The initial evaluation period shall be based
36 on the claims data for the quarter ending March 31, 2020. The
37 performance measures and thresholds may be adjusted after the initial
38 evaluation period. Failure to meet department-identified standards on
39 performance measures shall result in a rate reduction of (1) up to five
40 per cent for the quarters ending September 30, 2020, and December 31,
41 2020, and (2) up to ten per cent beginning January 1, 2021. No provider
42 shall receive a rate decrease under this subsection that is more than a ten
43 per cent decrease annually.]

44 [(d)] (c) The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-
45 10, may implement policies and procedures to administer the provisions
46 of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and
47 procedures in regulation form, provided the commissioner [prints]
48 posts notice of the intent to adopt the regulations on the department's

49 Internet web site and the eRegulations System not later than twenty
 50 days after the date of implementation. Such policies and procedures
 51 shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

52 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Social
 53 Services shall adjust rates of reimbursement under the Medicaid
 54 program so that (1) a nurse-midwife licensed pursuant to chapter 377 of
 55 the general statutes receives the same rate as an obstetrician-
 56 gynecologist licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes for
 57 performing the same medical service or procedure, and (2) a podiatrist
 58 licensed pursuant to chapter 375 of the general statutes receives the
 59 same rate as a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general
 60 statutes for performing the same medical service or procedure. The
 61 commissioner shall seek federal approval to amend the Medicaid state
 62 plan, if necessary, to adjust rates of reimbursement in accordance with
 63 this section.

64 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Commissioner of Social
 65 Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to integrate services
 66 provided by peer support specialists into the medical assistance
 67 program and provide Medicaid reimbursement for such services. For
 68 purposes of this section, "peer support services" means a recovery-
 69 focused behavioral health service that allows an individual the
 70 opportunity to learn to manage his or her recovery with help from a peer
 71 support specialist who may have experience recovering from mental
 72 illness or substance use disorder.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-28e
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-280c
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:
 To add acupuncture and chiropractor services to those covered under Medicaid, adjust the Medicaid payment methodology for methadone

maintenance providers, achieve Medicaid payment parity for nurse-midwives and podiatrists performing the same services as physicians, and provide Medicaid reimbursement to peer support specialists.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]