

HOW DMAS ADDS NEW SERVICE COVERAGE

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Agenda

- Context For Adding New Services to the Virginia Medicaid program.
- Agency Limitations on Service Expansions and Adding New Costs.
- Process Required for DMAS to Add New Services.

DMAS Mission: Improve the health & well-being of Virginians through access to high-quality care

- The Medicaid program covers thousands of different medical and behavioral services. Federal or state law dictate mandatory services, while other services are optional.
- Mandates come from legislation in Congress or the VA General Assembly, and from the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Optional Services - DMAS is always looking for ways to enhance member care via new services.
- Dental care for adults and vision services -- primary examples of non-covered services that would help Medicaid members.
- Agency receives many requests for new services from members, stakeholders, advocates, and health care providers



New Services: Context

- New services increase costs -- DMAS cannot create new costs without General Assembly approval.



- Agency Limitations on Expanding Services and Creating New Costs.

- Two specific limits on DMAS offering new services in the annual Budget passed by the General Assembly.




- Process required for DMAS to add new services.



New Services: Limitations

- § 4-5.03(a)(1) prohibits DMAS from increasing eligibility levels or payments unless money to cover those increases is authorized by the General Assembly
- § 4-5.03(b)(1) prohibits DMAS from beginning any new service that will require increased funding unless authorized by the General Assembly

Process for New Services

- Step 1: Make sure CMS will pay for the new service. 
- Step 2: Submit budget to the Secretary HHR and the Governor. 
- Step 3: Work with Legislature before and during the legislative session - help them understand Why the service is needed, What it will do, and how much it will cost. 
- Step 4: Implement the new service!
 - Systems, Rates, Provider Notice, Contracts



QUESTIONS

