



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Marvin B. Figueroa
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

August 10, 2026

Courtney Miller
Director
CMS/Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
Medicaid & CHIP Operations Group
601 E. 12th St., Room 355
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Ms. Miller:

Attached for your review and approval is amendment 26-019, entitled "Cell and Gene Therapy Model" to the Plan for Medical Assistance for the Commonwealth. I request that your office approve this change as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within an oval border. The signature appears to be "M. Figueroa".

Marvin B. Figueroa

Attachment

cc: Steve Ford, Director, Department of Medical Assistance Services

Transmittal Summary

SPA 26-019

I. IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Title of Amendment: Cell and Gene Therapy Model

II. SYNOPSIS

Basis and Authority: The Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, § 32.1-325, grants to the Board of Medical Assistance Services the authority to administer and amend the Plan for Medical Assistance. The Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, § 32.1-324, authorizes the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to administer and amend the Plan for Medical Assistance according to the Board's requirements.

Purpose: In accordance with the 2026 Appropriation Act, Item 291.WWWWW.1, the state plan will be revised to provide authority for DMAS to participate in the Cell and Gene Therapy Model, and more specifically, to provide authority for the value-based payment arrangements that are part of the model. The Model is a partnership between CMS and states to provide sickle cell treatments for Medicaid members. A second SPA will be filed at a later date related to reimbursement changes required by the Model.

Substance and Analysis: The section of the State Plan that is affected by this amendment is "Amount, Duration, and Scope of Medical and Remedial Care and Services Provided to the Categorically Needy and Medically Needy."

Impact: There are no costs or savings associated with this change.

Tribal Notice: Please see attached.

Prior Public Notice: N/A.

Public Comments and Agency Analysis: N/A.



Tribal Notice – Cell and Gene Therapy Model

From Lee, Meredith (DMAS) <Meredith.Lee@dmas.virginia.gov>

Date Tue 7/28/2026 12:45 PM

To TribalOffice@MonacanNation.com <TribalOffice@monacannation.com>; Ann Richardson <chiefannerich@aol.com>; Pamelathompson4@yahoo.com <Pamelathompson4@yahoo.com>; rappahannocktrib@aol.com <rappahannocktrib@aol.com>; regstew007@gmail.com <regstew007@gmail.com>; Richard.matens@pamunkey.org <Richard.matens@pamunkey.org>; chief <chief@monacannation.gov>; chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com <chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com>; bradbybrown@gmail.com <bradbybrown@gmail.com>; tabitha.garrett@ihs.gov <tabitha.garrett@ihs.gov>; administrator@nansemond.gov <administrator@nansemond.gov>; info@afwellness.com <info@afwellness.com>; info@fishingpointhc.com <info@fishingpointhc.com>; contact@Nansemond.gov <contact@Nansemond.gov>; brandon.custalow@mattaponination.com <brandon.custalow@mattaponination.com>; admin@umitribe.org <admin@umitribe.org>; lorraine.reels-pearson@ihs.gov <lorraine.reels-pearson@ihs.gov>; Holmes, Remedios (IHS/NAS/RIC) <remedios.holmes@ihs.gov>; Lindsey.Taylor@ihs.gov <lindsey.taylor@ihs.gov>; Lyon, Joni (IHS/NAS/AO) <joni.lyon@ihs.gov>; Howard, Joanne <Joanne.howard@cit-ed.org>; chief <Chief@Nansemond.gov>; AssistantChief@Nansemond.gov <AssistantChief@Nansemond.gov>; steven.tupponce@umithealth.com <steven.tupponce@umithealth.com>; owen.adams@umitribe.gov <owen.adams@umitribe.gov>; Jennifer.Floor@ihs.gov <Jennifer.Floor@ihs.gov>

 1 attachment (204 KB)

(2)DMAS Director Steve Ford approved and signed 07.28.2026 - Tribal Notice Letter 7-28-26.pdf;

Dear Tribal Leaders and Indian Health Programs:

Attached is a Tribal Notice letter from Virginia Medicaid Director Steve Ford indicating that the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) plans to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide authority for DMAS to participate in the CMS Cell and Gene Therapy Model, and more specifically, to provide authority for the value-based payment arrangements that are part of the model.

If you would like a copy of the SPA documents or proposed text changes, or if you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you! -- Meredith Lee

Meredith Lee

Policy, Regulations, and Manuals Supervisor
Policy Division
Department of Medical Assistance Services
meredith.lee@dmas.virginia.gov, (804) 371-0552
Hours: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm (Monday-Friday)
www.dmas.virginia.gov



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I
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V
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E
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CardinalCare
Virginia's Medicaid Program

DMAS is committed to providing quality health care coverage and services efficiently to qualified Virginians in the Commonwealth.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

STEVE FORD
DIRECTOR

SUITE 1300
600 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219
804/786-7933
800/343-0634 (TDD)
www.dmas.virginia.gov

07/28/2026

SUBJECT: Notice of Opportunity for Tribal Comment – State Plan Amendment related to the CMS Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model.

Dear Tribal Leader and Indian Health Programs:

This letter is to notify you that the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is planning to amend the Virginia State Plan for Medical Assistance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Specifically, DMAS is providing you notice about a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that the Agency will file with CMS.

In accordance with the 2026 Appropriation Act, Item 291.WWWWW.1, the state plan will be revised to provide authority for DMAS to participate in the Cell and Gene Therapy Model, and more specifically, to provide authority for the value-based payment arrangements that are part of the model. The Model is a partnership between CMS and states to provide sickle cell treatments for Medicaid members. A second SPA will be filed at a later date related to reimbursement changes required by the Model.

We realize that the changes in this SPA may impact Medicaid members and providers, including tribal members and providers. Therefore, we encourage you to let us know if you have any comments or questions. The tribal comment period for this SPA is open through August 27, 2026. You may submit your comments directly to Meredith Lee, DMAS Policy Division, by phone (804) 371-0552, or via email: Meredith.Lee@dmas.virginia.gov. Finally, if you prefer regular mail you may send your comments or questions to:

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services,
Attn: Meredith Lee
600 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. Ford".

Steve Ford

Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State of VIRGINIA

**AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL
AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY
and MEDICALLY NEEDY**

- e. State supplemental rebates. The Department has the authority to seek supplemental rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers. In addition to collecting supplemental rebates for fee-for-service claims, the Department may, at its option, also collect supplemental rebates for Medicaid Member utilization through MCOs under an agreement. Supplemental rebate agreements shall be separate from the federal rebates and in compliance with federal law, §§ 1927(a)(1) and 1927(a)(4) of the *Social Security Act* (Act). All rebates collected on behalf of the Commonwealth shall be collected for the sole benefit of the state share of the costs.
- f. Effective October 1, 2026, CMS has authorized the Commonwealth of Virginia to enter into value/outcomes-based contracts with manufacturers on a voluntary basis to provide sickle cell treatments for the purposes of the CMS Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model. These contracts will be executed on the CMS-approved model agreement entitled "Value-Based Supplemental Rebate Agreement" which will be submitted to CMS and authorized for use beginning October 1, 2026.
- ~~f.g.~~ Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-8(b)(3)(D), information disclosed to the Department or to the Committee by a pharmaceutical manufacturer or wholesaler which discloses the identity of a specific manufacturer or wholesaler and the pricing information regarding the drugs by such manufacturer or wholesaler is confidential and shall not be subject to the disclosure requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§2.2-3700 *et seq.* of the Code of Virginia).
- ~~g.h.~~ Appeals for denials of prior authorization shall be addressed pursuant to 12VAC30-110, Part I, Client Appeals.

12b. Dentures.

- A. Medically necessary dentures, partials, and repair procedures are subject to service authorization and are covered under EPSDT for individuals under the age of 21.

Individuals aged 21 and over may receive coverage for medically necessary dentures, partials, and repair procedures only as a part of a definitive treatment plan, after a course of preventive and periodontal maintenance treatment, and after service authorization.

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

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2. STATE

3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT

XIX

XXI

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY _____ \$ _____

b. FFY _____ \$ _____

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

15. RETURN TO

12. TYPED NAME

13. TITLE

14. DATE SUBMITTED

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED

17. DATE APPROVED

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

22. REMARKS

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State of VIRGINIA

**AMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL
AND REMEDIAL CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY
and MEDICALLY NEEDY**

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