



# Behavioral Therapy Transition Update for Waiver Providers

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*November 2017*

## Historical Background

In the fall of 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directed the Department to make Pediatric Behavioral Therapies available to children enrolled in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and remove the behavioral services for children and adults less than 21 years of age from the following Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers: Children with Autism (CWA), Children's Extensive Support (CES), the Children's Habilitative Residential Program (CHRP), Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Supported Living Services (SLS).

In July 2017, the Department notified providers and Case Management Agencies (CMAs) that children and youth up to age 21 must transition from waiver behavioral services as soon as possible. This information sheet is to provide a deadline for all waiver behavioral service providers that are also Health First Colorado providers to terminate billing waiver behavioral services for children and youth up to age 21.

## CES, DD, and SLS Waivers

Recently through our ongoing partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department and CMS clarified that members enrolled in waiver behavioral services must transition to Health First Colorado Pediatric Behavioral Therapies. If the current waiver behavioral service provider is also an approved Health First Colorado provider, then the waiver behavioral services cannot be accessed and the provider must be reimbursed through Health First Colorado effective December 15, 2017.

## Next Steps

### Case Management Agencies

Case management agencies will work with members and their families to ensure a smooth transition of behavioral services from their waiver benefit to Pediatric Behavioral Therapies. The case management agency will coordinate with the Pediatric Behavioral Therapies provider to assure there is no overlap of behavioral benefits or lapse in services between waivers and Pediatric Behavioral Therapies. The case manager will be responsible for any changes needed to waiver Prior Authorization Requests (PARs). The Pediatric Behavioral Therapies provider is responsible to submit a PAR for the Pediatric Behavioral Therapies. Both Pediatric Behavioral Therapies providers and the case management agency will collaborate to ensure that PARs are submitted correctly and timely to prevent overlap or omission of authorized units between the waiver PAR and Health First Colorado PAR.

## Providers

All Behavioral Services waiver providers who are approved state plan Pediatric Behavioral Therapies providers for children and adults up to age 21 must cease billing waiver behavioral services effective, December 15, 2017. Pediatric Behavioral Therapies providers must collaborate with the participant's case-manger to assure there is no overlap or lapse in behavioral benefits.

For detailed information on how to become an Health First Colorado Pediatric Behavioral Therapies provider, please visit our provider enrollment page: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/provider-enrollment>.

## Contact Information

If you have questions, please visit the Pediatric Behavioral Therapies page <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/pediatric-behavioral-therapies-information-providers> the appropriate program manager listed below.

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