



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Notification of Changes to the Children's Extensive Support Waiver Benefits

April 2018

Historical Background

Since 2015 there have been significant changes to Health First Colorado and Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Program benefits which expand the service options for eligible members ages birth up to 21. In the spring of 2015 Pediatric Personal Care was added as a Health First Colorado benefit. In the fall of 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directed the Department to provide Pediatric Behavioral Therapies under EPSDT Program. In the Spring of 2016 CMS directed the Department to provide Vision therapies under the EPSDT program.

The Children's Extensive Support (CES) waiver currently has behavioral service, personal care and vision therapy as benefits. Members enrolled into the CES waiver are required to access medically necessary services through Health First Colorado or EPSDT prior to accessing those benefits through the waiver in the event there is overlap. With the addition of these benefits to Health First Colorado or EPSDT the member's needs are met therefore these benefits will be removed from the CES waiver. This means that the benefits will remain available to CES waiver participants and the participants will be able to access additional CES waiver supports that were previously unavailable due to meeting the annual service plan limit.

Next Steps

With the availability of Personal care, Pediatric Behavioral Services, and Vision therapies under Health First Colorado state plan benefits, personal care, behavioral services and vision services will be removed from the CES waiver. The Department will amend the CES waiver to remove these services from the CES waiver. The waiver amendment process includes opportunity for public comment. The Department will provide public notification of the intent to amend in the Spring of 2018.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact Sheila Peil at Sheila.Peil@state.co.us or 303-866-5156.

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