



Specialty Requirements for Medicaid State Plan Health Care for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Establish and require specialty requirements for Medicaid state plan health care services that serve individuals with developmental disabilities and coordinate care with those who receive services from the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services (DD/HCBS) Waiver.

Individuals with developmental disabilities often have extraordinary basic health care needs that require a medical system that has the experience and expertise to handle conditions or combinations of conditions that are rarely seen in a mainstream medical practice.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council convened a work group of experts and stakeholders to develop specific requirements for addressing the unique needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in a managed care system. The development of these specialty requirements utilized research garnered from other states and experiences in Florida's Medicaid Reform areas. While initially developed for managed care, these requirements are also pertinent to health care delivery through non-managed care systems and are valuable for a broader disability population. Utilizing specialty requirements in providing Medicaid state plan health care services to individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities in the broader Medicaid system could substantially improve how the health care services address the medical complexities of this vulnerable population.

The guiding principles for the specialty requirements developed are as follows:

- Person-Centered Health Care Management
- Consistency and Continuity of Services
- Accessibility of Services
- Collaboration with Stakeholders

Some of the core elements of the specialty requirements that would improve the medical care provided through Medicaid are as follows:

- Practitioners providing services have experience or receive training in providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities.
- There is strong coordination between the provision of primary, secondary and tertiary care.
- There is strong coordination between the delivery of the Medicaid health care services and the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver services.
- Services are provided in the amount, duration and scope that is appropriate to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and other disabilities. This requires that the determination of medical necessity be made by a professional who has appropriate clinical expertise in treating individuals with developmental disabilities and the service under consideration.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council recommends that specific requirements be applied to the delivery of Medicaid state plan health care services to improve the system's ability to address the complexity of the medical care needed by individuals with developmental disabilities and other disabilities.