



December 6, 2023

This is the inaugural monthly update from myself (the Chief Medical Officer of South Dakota Medicaid) to you (a clinician enrolled as a Medicaid provider). My hope is that each month these updates will provide you with both generally useful clinical information as well as specific information about changes in Medicaid. This will not be an exhaustive list of all changes at SD Medicaid since there are other avenues such as the [Medical Provider Listserv](#) and the [website](#). However, this should be a distilled summary for things that will be relevant to you as the clinician caring for Medicaid recipients.

I know many physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other clinicians across the state, but in case we have not met me yet, I wanted to share a little of my background. I am an internist and after an undergraduate degree in chemistry and political science at the University of South Dakota, I completed both medical school and residency at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. As a South Dakota native, I returned to South Dakota to practice clinically and over my career I have worked in Yankton, Pierre, and Sioux Falls in both clinic, hospital, nursing facility, and urgent care settings. Administratively I have worked in a variety of roles including in the clinician wellness and physician advisor (utilization review and management, clinical documentation integrity, revenue cycle, and case management) spaces. No matter what I have done, my primary mission has remained to “improve the practice of medicine for both patients and for healthcare workers.” I think we all know healthcare needs to change. My promise to you is that as we work towards that improvement, I will also keep in mind the administrative burdens and do my best to reduce and eliminate when possible.

Medicaid expansion went live in South Dakota July 1, 2023. As you likely know, the population who now has access to apply for Medicaid includes adults at least 19 but not yet 65 who are not on Medicare (or able to sign up for Medicare) with income at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. Historically, South Dakota Medicaid has primarily been associated with coverage for children, pregnant women, and older adults who need the financial support to either stay in their own homes or reside in a long-term care facility. In fact, per the 2023 report https://dss.sd.gov/docs/medicaid/reports/2023_Medicaid_Report.pdf, 63% of Medicaid or CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) recipients were children. Additionally, 55% of adults living in nursing homes utilized Medicaid to pay for their care. With expansion we will see more adults in the 19 to 65 range which necessitates thinking differently.

Below you will find the first group of updates on changes we have made at Medicaid as we try to anticipate our changing population.

Updates:

- 1) **Blood Pressure home monitoring devices** (CPT A4660, A4663, A4670)- As of October 1, 2023, South Dakota Medicaid now covers BP cuff monitors for many indicators including diagnoses of hypertension, hypotension, congestive heart failure, gestational hypertension, preeclampsia, or eclampsia. Full details on coverage conditions can be found [here](#).
- 2) **Continuous blood glucose monitoring devices (CGMs)**- As of December 1, 2023, South Dakota Medicaid now covers initial CGMs for Diabetes Type 1, Diabetes Type 2 on short-acting insulin, and Gestational Diabetes. Additionally, CGMs will now be available through the pharmacy instead of a durable medical equipment provider. Full details on coverage conditions can be found [here](https://dss.sd.gov/docs/mcicaid/providers/billingmanuals/Professional/Durable_Medical_Equipment.pdf). https://dss.sd.gov/docs/mcicaid/providers/billingmanuals/Professional/Durable_Medical_Equipment.pdf). Please note, the preferred CGM products are Dexcom, Freestyle, and Guardian.
- 3) **Prior authorizations for physician administered medications**- South Dakota Medicaid has been working on reviewing physician administered medications and the prior authorizations for those medications. The goal is to make prior authorizations have clear and transparent criteria as well as make submitting requests for these products as user friendly as possible. In efforts to improve this process, all prior authorization criteria for physician administered drugs, vaccines and immunizations have been moved from our provider manuals to the prior authorization page on our website. From there, you will be directed to the new [Physician Administered Drugs, Vaccines and Immunizations](#) page where all criteria and forms are now located. Approval criteria is separated into individual documents that have a corresponding request form for each product. **Moving forward, please utilize these new product specific request forms when submitting prior authorization requests for physician administered drugs.**
- 4) **Prior authorizations for self-administered medications**- If you are looking for information on medications dispensed by a retail pharmacy, please see [here](#).
- 5) **Preferred Drug List (PDL)**- Historically South Dakota Medicaid has not operated a traditional preferred drug list (PDL) but we are gradually transitioning towards a PDL. One example, for 2024 is you will see is preferring brand name Humira over the biosimilar products. For a full listing, please see [here](#). The full list of 2024 updates will go into effect January 1, 2024, and will be added soon.

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