

CMS Approves Ohio's Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Waiver

On September 24th, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio's substance use disorder (SUD) Section 1115 demonstration waiver to support a comprehensive continuum of care for Medicaid-enrolled individuals with an opioid use disorder (OUD) or other SUDs. This demonstration allows Ohio to enhance residential treatment services as a crucial component in the continuum of SUD benefits by permitting Ohio to receive federal funding for Medicaid services for individuals with an OUD and/or SUD who temporarily reside in inpatient or residential treatment facilities.

The demonstration will allow Ohio Medicaid to expand efforts to implement models of care supporting individuals in the community and home — outside of institutions — and improve access to a continuum of high-quality, evidence-based SUD services. This continuum of care is based on American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria that reflect nationally recognized clinical treatment guidelines. During the five-year demonstration period, Ohio seeks to:

- Increase rates of identification, initiation, and engagement in treatment for SUD
- Increase adherence to and retention in treatment
- Reduce overdose deaths, particularly those due to opioids
- Reduce preventable or medically inappropriate use of emergency department and inpatient hospital settings for treatment by increasing access to other services
- Reduce readmissions to inpatient hospitals or higher levels of care when the readmission is preventable or medically inappropriate
- Improve access to care for physical health conditions among individuals with an SUD

Ohio's demonstration waiver application was submitted to CMS in January 2019, following a redesign of the Medicaid behavioral health benefit package as a step to improve SUD treatment options. The application was developed by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, with consultation with Ohio behavioral health stakeholders.

Details and implementation updates on Ohio's SUD 1115 waiver can be found at <https://bh.medicaid.ohio.gov/>. Questions regarding the waiver may be submitted via email to bh-enroll@medicaid.ohio.gov.