

Notice of Change to the TennCare III Program Coverage of Dental Services for Adults

September 23, 2022

Updated November 3, 2022 (See highlighted information below.)

The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration is providing official notification of a planned change to the TennCare program. This change entails enhancements to the benefits available to adults enrolled in TennCare. TennCare is publishing this notice pursuant to 42 § CFR 431.408 and the terms and conditions of the TennCare demonstration in order to solicit public input on this planned change.

Description of Planned Program Change

Currently, TennCare covers dental services for children under age 21, for pregnant and postpartum adults, and for certain adults receiving long-term services and supports from TennCare. Dental services are not currently covered for most adults enrolled in TennCare.

Effective January 1, 2023, TennCare will cover dental services for all adults enrolled in TennCare. Dental services for adults will be furnished by the dental benefits manager (DBM) under contract with TennCare to administer dental services to TennCare members. Dental benefits covered for adults age 21 and older will include services from the following categories: diagnostic x-rays and exams; preventive cleanings; topical fluoride treatments and caries arresting medicament; restorative (fillings); endodontics; scaling and root planing; full mouth debridement; crowns; partial dentures; complete dentures; immediate complete dentures and complete denture relines; tooth extractions; alveoloplasty; removal of lateral exostosis; removal of torus palatinus; removal of torus mandibularis; palliative treatment; and nitrous oxide inhalation sedation.

A proposed list of specific procedure codes to be covered by TennCare for adults is available online at

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents2/DentalServicesToBeCovered.pdf>. Once TennCare's coverage of dental services for adults is implemented in January 2023, the list of covered procedure codes will be posted and maintained on the "Dental Services" page of TennCare's website located at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/members-applicants/dental-services.html>.



Expected Impact on Enrollment and Expenditures

This change will not result in the enrollment of additional persons in the TennCare program.

The implementation of a dental benefit for adult TennCare members is expected to result in an increase in annual aggregate expenditures of approximately \$75.5 million under the TennCare program.

Evaluation Impact

TennCare does not anticipate modifying its evaluation design based on this planned change. This change is expected to contribute to key goals of the TennCare demonstration already reflected in the demonstration's evaluation design (currently under CMS review). These include enhancing coverage and benefits available under the TennCare demonstration and increasing member use of dental services under the TennCare demonstration.

Waiver and Expenditure Authorities Requested

TennCare is not requesting any new waiver or expenditure authorities under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to implement these changes. Federal regulations at 42 CFR §§ 440.100 and 440.225 allow state Medicaid programs to provide dental services to eligible beneficiaries.

Under the terms of the TennCare III demonstration, TennCare may make changes that add allowable benefits and coverage to the program without seeking additional approval of a demonstration amendment from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Public Notice Process

TennCare has taken a variety of steps to ensure that members of the public are notified of this planned change to the TennCare program. These measures include the development and maintenance of this webpage, as well as notices published in newspapers of general circulation in Tennessee communities with 50,000 or more residents.

This planned change was presented by TennCare as a budget request during the 2022 legislative session and was approved by the Tennessee General Assembly as part of the state budget through a public legislative process.

In addition, TennCare has disseminated information about this proposed change via its social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).



Public Input Process

TennCare is seeking feedback on this planned change. Members of the public are invited to offer comments regarding this change from September 23, 2022, through October 24, 2022.

Members of the public who wish to comment on this planned change may do so through either of the following options:

- Comments may be sent by email to public.notice.tennCare@tn.gov.
- Comments may be mailed to

Aaron Butler, Director of Policy
Division of TennCare
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37243.

Individuals who prefer to make their comments in person may attend one of the following public hearings to comment on these planned changes:

Virtual Hearing

Location:

<https://tngov.webex.com/meet/JReeve>

Date: October 7, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m. CT

In-Person Hearing

Location: Room 1 East A of the
TennCare Building, 310 Great Circle
Road, Nashville, TN.

Date: October 10, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m. CT

TennCare always appreciates input. In order to be considered prior to implementation of this change, feedback must be received no later than October 24, 2022. Individuals wishing to view comments submitted by members of the public may submit their requests to the same physical address and/or email address at which comments are being accepted.

TennCare Demonstration

A copy of the TennCare Demonstration is available at

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/tenncarewaiver.pdf>.



TennCare Page on CMS Web Site

As the federal agency with oversight authority over all Medicaid programs, CMS offers its own online resources regarding the TennCare Demonstration. Interested parties may view these materials at

https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/waivers_faceted.html.

