Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendments Posted Online for Public Comment October 16, 2026

On or before December 31, 2026, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is submitting the Medicaid and Healthy Montana Kids (HMK)/ Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendments (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval, with a proposed effective date of October 13, 2026.

DPHHS proposes to implement the federal final rule titled Medicaid Program; Prohibition on Federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Funding for Sex-Rejecting Procedures Furnished to Children, CMS–2451– F, Federal Register document no. 2026–16508, published August 13, 2026.

In accordance with the final rule, beginning October 13, 2026, DPHHS will no longer cover or pay for certain pharmaceutical and surgical services when they are prescribed, furnished, or performed for gender transition for Medicaid HMK Plus members under the age of 18 and HMK/CHIP members under the age of 19. Surgical services were previously only available for HMK/CHIP members at age 18. Affected services include puberty-blocking medications, hormone therapy, and surgical services that alter primary or secondary sex characteristics, when prescribed, furnished, or performed for gender transition.

Additional information regarding the implementation can be found in the public notice titled "Changes to Gender Dysphoria Coverage in Accordance with New Federal Final Rules" posted to the Medicaid Provider website.

The estimated fiscal impact is a $129,225 decrease in total funds for SFY 2027.

DPHHS is committed to an extensive public process. We invite your comments and questions on these state plan amendments, submitted by email or postmarked by November 15, 2026. You may direct comments to the Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator at (406) 444-2584 or dphhscomments@mt.gov, or to the Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59620.