

COMPARING RYAN WHITE, MEDICAID, AND THE BENCHMARK PLAN FOR THE EXCHANGE IN ILLINOIS

The Ryan White program funds both core medical services and support services for patients living with HIV/AIDS (see Appendix C for a breakdown of core medical versus support services). Both medical and ancillary services are critical to maintaining the health of low-income individuals who may not have access to many necessities that affect access to HIV/AIDS treatment and care (eg, child care, stable housing). While the latter are generally not covered by Illinois' Medicaid programs, a number of these services—including some that are not covered by Ryan White—are covered by a §1915(c) Waiver to HIV+ Medicaid clients who have functional limitations placing them at risk of nursing facility placement.^{36,37} Still, this waiver applies to a limited number of HIV+ Illinoisans, and virtually none of these ancillary services are covered by the proposed exchange benchmark plan.

Accounting for inconsistencies among Medicaid, the exchange benchmark plan, and Ryan White will be critical in transitioning beneficiaries onto Medicaid to ensure that their health status does not deteriorate (due to lack of access to child care, housing, or non-emergency medical transportation). The Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health (Ryan White program grantees) will need to work closely with Medicaid to determine which Ryan White program services can be provided to fill gaps in Medicaid without violating Ryan White's payer of last resort requirements.

Table 1 provides a comparison of covered services on Illinois' Ryan White and Medicaid programs (as of 2010), as well as BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois' BlueAdvantage plan.

Table 1. Ryan White Versus Medicaid and the Base-Benchmark Plan: Covered Services

Benefits applying only to beneficiaries under 21 years of age are not assessed in this report.

Covered Service	Ryan White ³⁵	Medicaid ³⁸	BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois: BlueAdvantage Small-Group Plan ³⁹
Home Health Care		X (PA or § 1915(c) Waiver) ^{40,11}	X
Mental Health	X	X	X
Substance Abuse (outpatient)	X	X	X
Substance Abuse (inpatient)	X	X	X
Medical Case Management (for ART)	X	X ⁴¹ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	
Community-based Care	X (1 organization)	X ^{42,43}	
Ambulatory/Outpatient Care	X	X ^{44,45}	X
Oral Health Care	X	X ⁴⁶ (emergencies only)	
Early Intervention Clinic	X		
Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded		X ⁴⁷	
Ambulance		X ⁴⁸	X
Family Planning		X ⁴⁹	X
Durable Medical Equipment		X ⁵⁰	X
Hospital Services		X ⁵¹	X
Lab and X-ray Services		X	X
Nursing Facility		X ⁵²	

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¹¹ Also available without PA following discharge from acute care or rehabilitation hospital inpatient stay of at least 24 hours, where patient requires visits within first 60 days and visits are initiated within 14 days of discharge. ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES, HANDBOOK FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES: POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES (2011), available at <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/r200.pdf> (last visited Oct. 18, 2012).

Table 1. (continued)

Midwife/NP Services		X ⁵³	X
Private Duty Nursing		X ⁵⁴ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	
Physician Services		X	X
Non-Medical Case Management Services	X	X ⁵⁵ (pregnant women and women with children aged <1 year) ⁵⁶	
Child Care	X (1 organization)		
Emergency Financial Assistance	X		
Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals	X	X ⁵⁷ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	
Housing Services	X		
Health Education/Risk Reduction	X	X (pre- and postnatal only) ⁵⁸	X (diabetes only)
Legal Services	X		
Linguistic Services	X (1 organization)	X ⁵⁹ (20 visits/year)	
Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	X	X ⁶⁰ (PA)	X
Outreach Services	X		
Psychosocial Support	X		X
Referral Agencies	X	X	X
Treatment Adherence Counseling	X		
Chiropractor			X (capped at \$1000/year)
Podiatry		X ⁶¹ (diabetes only)	X
Hospice		X ⁶²	X
Respiratory Therapy		X	X
PT, OT, and Speech Therapy		X ^{63,64} (20 visits/year)	X
Orthotics and Prosthetics		X ⁶⁵	X
Personal Care		X ⁶⁶ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	
Home Infusion Therapy			
Adult Day Care		X ⁶⁷ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	
Respite Services		X ⁶⁸ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	X
Personal EM Response		X ⁶⁹ (via § 1915(c) Waiver)	

NP = nurse practitioner; OT = occupational therapy; PA = prior authorization; PT = physical therapy.