

# Notice of Change in TennCare II Demonstration: Amendment 43

*Published February 13, 2020*

The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration is providing official notification of intent to file an amendment to the TennCare II Demonstration. This amendment, which will be known as “Amendment 43,” will be filed with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

## **Description of Amendment and Affected Populations**

In Amendment 43, the state is proposing to extend its medication therapy management (MTM) benefit for an additional 12 months.

MTM is a clinical service provided by licensed pharmacists, the aim of which is to optimize drug therapy and improve therapeutic outcomes for patients. MTM services include medication therapy reviews, pharmacotherapy consults, monitoring efficacy and safety of medication therapy, and other clinical services.

TennCare’s MTM benefit was implemented in July 2018 for TennCare members affected by the state’s patient-centered medical home (PCMH) program and health home program (known as “Health Link”) who met specified clinical risk criteria. The state proposed to operate the MTM benefit on a two-year pilot basis in order to evaluate the impact of MTM services on health outcomes, as well as the cost and quality of care for affected members.

In Amendment 43, the state proposes to extend its MTM pilot program for an additional 12 months, through the end of June 2021. The purpose of this extension is to allow the state to gather additional data on the effectiveness of the MTM program. Based on program implementation to date, the state believes this additional time will help ensure the state has adequate data to assess the impact of the MTM initiative. At the end of this pilot period, the state will evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative to inform future decision-making about its continuation, discontinuation, and/or expansion to additional populations.



### **Expected Impact on Enrollment and Expenditures**

Amendment 43 will not result in any increase or decrease in enrollment in the TennCare demonstration. TennCare eligibility, cost sharing, and service delivery systems are not affected by Amendment 43.

Implementation of Amendment 43 is expected to extend by one year TennCare's annual aggregate MTM expenditures of approximately \$5.1 million. This amount will not materially alter the State's budget neutrality demonstration.

### **Hypothesis and Evaluation Parameters**

The state is not proposing to modify its evaluation design as part of this amendment.

### **Waiver and Expenditure Authorities Requested**

All waiver and expenditure authorities currently approved for the TennCare demonstration will continue to be in effect. The state is not requesting any new waiver or expenditure authorities to effectuate these changes.

To effectuate this change, the state requests the following amendment to STC 29.g of the TennCare demonstration.

Individuals enrolled in the state's patient-centered medical home (PCMH) and health home programs are eligible to receive MTM, regardless of which eligibility group the individual qualifies under. This benefit will expire ~~two~~ three years after the implementation date of the state's MTM pilot program, not to exceed June 30, 2021, unless amended in accordance with the requirements of STC 7.

### **Public Notice Process**

TennCare has taken a variety of steps to ensure that members of the public are notified of Amendment 43. These measures include the development and maintenance of this webpage, as well as notices published in the newspapers of widest circulation in Tennessee cities with 50,000 or more residents. TennCare has disseminated information about the proposed amendment via its social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Twitter). TennCare has also notified members of the Tennessee General Assembly of its intent to submit Amendment 43.



## Public Input Process

TennCare is seeking feedback on Amendment 43 prior to its submission to CMS. Members of the public are invited to offer comments regarding Amendment 43 from February 13, 2020, through March 14, 2020.

Members of the public who wish to comment on the proposed amendment may do so through either of the following options:

- Comments may be sent by email to [public.notice.tennCare@tn.gov](mailto: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 Amendment 43:

- A public hearing on February 26, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. CT in Conference Room 1 East A of the TennCare Building, 310 Great Circle Road in Nashville.
- A public hearing on February 28, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. CT in the Large Meeting Room of the Bellevue branch of the Nashville Public Library, 720 Baugh Road in Nashville.

Telephonic access to the February 26 hearing (in the TennCare Building) is available for individuals unable to attend in person. To register to participate in this hearing by telephone, please contact Jonathan Reeve by phone at (615) 507-6449 or by email at [Jonathan.Reeve@tn.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Reeve@tn.gov) prior to the date of the hearing.

Individuals with disabilities or individuals with limited English proficiency who wish to participate in one of the hearings and who may require language or communication assistance to do so should contact Talley Olson of TennCare's Office of Civil Rights Compliance by phone at (855) 857-1673 or by email at [HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov](mailto:HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov) prior to the date of the hearing.

TennCare always appreciates input. In order to be considered for the final draft of Amendment 43, comments must be received no later than March 14, 2020. 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.

### **Draft of Amendment 43**

A draft of TennCare's proposed demonstration amendment is located at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents2/Amendment43.pdf>. Copies of the draft amendment are also available in each county office of the Tennessee Department of Health. Once comments received during the public input period have been reviewed and considered, a final draft of the amendment will be prepared. The final draft will be submitted to CMS and will then be made available at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/policy-guidelines/waiver-and-state-plan-public-notices.html>.

### **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](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/waivers_faceted.html).

