



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Mary Washington
The Senate of Maryland
11 Bladen Street, Rm. 102
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Anne Kaiser
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Rm. 164
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Washington and Delegate Kaiser:

Thank you for your correspondence to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) dated April 1, 2022, regarding Maryland Medicaid's gender-affirming care coverage.

Currently, Maryland Medicaid covers a broad spectrum of gender-affirming care services,¹ including comprehensive specialty mental health services, continuous hormone replacement therapy, outpatient laboratory testing to monitor hormone replacement therapy, various gender-affirming surgeries,² and post-transition services as medically necessary for transgender persons appropriate to their anatomy.³ These services are covered for individuals 18 years of age or older who have the capacity to make fully informed decisions and grant consent for treatment, are diagnosed with gender dysphoria, and have undergone a minimum of 12 months of continuous hormonal therapy when recommended by a mental health professional.⁴

MDH reviewed existing Maryland Medicaid coverage in comparison to other U.S. states as well as standards of care of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). In addition, existing Maryland Medicaid gender affirming care coverage provides access to health care for transgender and non-binary Marylanders within the legal authorities of the Medicaid program and the federal executive order from President Biden. As such, while we will continue to review new federal developments as appropriate, MDH determined that no change to existing Maryland Medicaid coverage is required at this time.

We appreciate your partnership with ensuring Marylanders receive the best available care through Medical Assistance and the HealthChoice program. Please feel free to contact MDH Director of Governmental Affairs, Heather Shek, at heather.shek@maryland.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tricia Roddy
Deputy Medicaid Director
Health Care Financing

¹ See Maryland Medicaid Provider Transmittal 37-16.

https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/MCOupdates/Documents/pt_37_16.pdf

² Male-to-Female Transition, including urethroplasty, orchiectomy, penectomy, clitoroplasty, labiaplasty, vaginoplasty, and thyroid chondroplasty. Female-to-Male Transition, including urethroplasty, vaginectomy, hysterectomy, mastectomy, salpingo-oophorectomy, ovariectomy, metoidioplasty, phalloplasty, scrotoplasty, and placement of testicular prosthesis.

³ For example, augmentation mammoplasty may be covered if the physician prescribing hormones and the treating surgeon document that, after receiving hormone treatment for 12 months, breast size continues to cause clinically significant distress in social, occupational, or other areas of functioning.

⁴ Individuals seeking a mastectomy are excluded from this requirement.