



State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services  
280 State Drive, Center Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

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# Global Commitment Register

June 2, 2020

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GCR 20-079  
CLARIFICATION

## **\*\*COVID-19 Emergency Response\*\***

[Please see the Department of Vermont Health Access COVID-19 site for important information](#)

## **COVID-19 Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment Approval**

### **Policy Summary:**

As part of the response to the [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), Vermont Medicaid has received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for certain additional flexibilities in the Medicaid State Plan. These temporary flexibilities are beyond those already permitted under the Global Commitment to Health (GC) 1115 waiver. This approval includes:

- The elimination of copayments for outpatient hospital visits and medications used to treat COVID-19 symptoms (under current policy copayments do not apply to inpatient services).
- The ability to extend existing prior authorizations, as necessary, without clinical review.
- The ability to make exceptions to the Preferred Drug List if drug shortages occur.
- The ability to adjust the per-week service delivery minimum to the Substance Use Disorder State Plan Service.

For more information about how these flexibilities have been used, please visit the [Department of Vermont Health Access COVID-19 site](#) and [Global Commitment Register Clarifications](#).

### **Effective Date:**

March 1, 2020

### **Authority/Legal Basis:**

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #29.

[COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

**Population Affected:**

All Medicaid

**Additional Information:**

The approved [COVID Disaster Relief State Plan Section 7.4](#) is available on the DVHA website.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to [AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov).