

### **Q1. WHAT IS JUST HEALTH PLUS (PRE- AND POST-RELEASE HEALTH SERVICES)?**

- A1. JUST Health Plus is the next step in expanded Medicaid services for justice-involved members. Building on the existing JUST Health program, which suspends (rather than terminates) Medicaid eligibility for incarcerated members, JUST Health Plus adds the 2024 federal authority for Medicaid to cover specific health care services for youth and adults in correctional facilities up to 90 days pre-release. Certain Medicaid-eligible juveniles will also receive additional services as they transition back to the community.<sup>1</sup>

A phased-in implementation approach will begin summer 2025, starting with three New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) facilities. Additional services for eligible juveniles will begin in juvenile corrections facilities in 2025.

### **Q2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE JUST HEALTH PLUS SERVICES?**

- A2. When JUST Health Plus is fully implemented, every Medicaid member in a New Mexico state or county prison, jail, or juvenile corrections facility will be eligible to receive pre-release services up to 90 days prior to their release.

Eligible juveniles who will receive additional services include those who are:

- adjudicated; and
- up to age 21 or ages 18 to 26 and eligible for Medicaid under the Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) eligibility group.

### **Q3. WHICH FACILITIES WILL BE ABLE TO BE REIMBURSED FOR PRE-RELEASE SERVICES?**

- A3. Once JUST Health Plus is fully implemented state-wide, all New Mexico state and county prisons, jails, and juvenile corrections facilities will be able to be reimbursed for specific Medicaid-covered services provided to members up to 90-days pre-release. Facilities will be assessed on their readiness to provide services at three tiered levels.

### **Q4. WHAT SERVICES ARE COVERED UNDER JUST HEALTH PLUS?**

- A4. JUST Health Plus features a tiered service structure. Tier 1, the minimum mandatory pre-release services approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, includes Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), case management, and 30 days of medications in hand at release. Eligible juveniles will also receive screening and diagnostic services pre-release, and Targeted Case Management for 30 days post-release.<sup>2</sup> Tier 2 adds Community Health Worker services, Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment, and peer support services. Tier 3 adds diagnostic services, including

---

<sup>1</sup> This requirement applies to all correctional facilities in the state, regardless of their participation in JUST Health Plus. This coverage is required under Section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (2023).

<sup>2</sup> Eligible juveniles will be able to receive screening and diagnostic services in the 30 days prior to their scheduled release or no later than seven calendar days, or as soon as practicable, post-release. These services must be provided in accordance with Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment requirements (eligible juveniles up to age 21) or U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations (FFCC up to age 26).



## JUST HEALTH PLUS FAQs

### *Frequently Asked Questions About Justice Re-entry Services for Medicaid Members*

radiology and labs, prescribed drugs, medical equipment and supplies, physical and behavioral health clinical consultation, and family planning services.

**Q5. WHICH PROVIDERS WILL SERVE JUSTICE-INVOLVED MEMBERS? WILL IT BE LIMITED TO THIRD-PARTY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS CONTRACTED BY THE FACILITIES?**

A5. Provider types for pre-release services will include community providers enrolled in Medicaid, providers employed by the correctional facility, and third-party health care vendors contracted by correctional facilities. Third party health care organizations will need to work with the carceral facility to determine what services the carceral facility and third-party health care vendor will provide. Behavioral health and other providers who are not contracted with carceral facilities, but registered with Medicaid, may also be able to provide in-reach services, depending on the capabilities of each individual facility. Additionally, facilities that directly employ medical staff may also be able to bill Medicaid for pre-release services, and correctional facilities may elect to hire additional health care providers. For Managed Care members, post-release services for eligible juveniles will be provided through the state's managed care organizations.

**Q6. WILL THERE BE COVERAGE FOR MAT FOR JUVENILES IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES?**

A6. For facilities that have phased in JUST Health Plus, Medicaid will reimburse for MAT provided during the pre-release period to any eligible Medicaid member who qualifies for the service.

**Q7. DOES MEDICAID ALLOW BILLING FOR BOTH INITIAL INDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR MAT?**

A7. Carceral facilities approved to provided service level tier 1 benefits will be able to bill Medicaid fee for service for clinically indicated MAT services during the pre-release service period, including both induction and maintenance services.

**Q8. IS CARCERAL PARTICIPATION MANDATORY?**

A8. The Health Care Authority recognizes that correctional facilities have varying levels of ability to provide services and bill Medicaid, which is why we've created three tiered service levels. While participation is not mandatory, this program attempts to support individuals leaving incarceration with the health care, support, and services they need to be successful in their communities and avoid recidivism, and Medicaid reimbursement is available to compensate providers and facilities for services provided. However, the additional services for eligible juveniles must be provided by facilities serving this population, regardless of the facility's participation in JUST Health Plus. If a facility is unable to provide the screening and diagnostic services prior to a juvenile's release, these must be provided as soon as is practicable following their release.

**Q9. FOR THE 30 DAYS OF MEDICATIONS IN HAND, IS IT OKAY TO PROVIDE A PAPER OR ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL?**

A9. According to federal guidance, the 30 days of medications in hand at release is a required



## JUST HEALTH PLUS FAQs

### *Frequently Asked Questions About Justice Re-entry Services for Medicaid Members*

service and is meant to be the physical medication (prescription or over the counter medication), provided to the individual upon their release. HCA recognizes that this may not always be feasible and encourages facilities to consider creative approaches to meeting this requirement. This could include transporting medications to the correctional facility, using a mail order pharmacy, building an on-site pharmacy, or in some cases where other methods are not possible, transporting the member directly to a pharmacy upon release. Capacity funding may be available to assist facilities with building the capacity necessary to provide this service. HCA is happy to answer additional facility-specific questions or provide technical assistance on this topic.