

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MED-QUEST DIVISION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §447.205, the Department of Human Services (DHS), Med-QUEST Division (MQD) hereby notifies the public that the MQD intends to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Under the provisions of federal law, the state is required to issue public notice of proposed changes to statewide methods and standards for setting Medicaid payment rates.

Hawaii is submitting SPA 26-0010 “Provisional and Associate-Level Marriage & Family Therapist (MFT) Mental Health Counselor (MHC), Psychologist and Social Worker Services” to expand access to quality mental health services. Consistent with Act 93, adding these providers and authorizing reimbursement for services furnished by these providers is effective July 1, 2026.

Hawaii lacks enough mental health professionals. Barriers to access these providers such as long wait times for these provider services adds to an increase in individuals not seeking help. This amendment aligns with Hawaii state objectives to remove barriers to access and meet demand for high quality mental health professionals.

The following sections in the Hawaii Medicaid State Plan have been added:

1. Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A and 3.1-B Addendum 4- Provisionally Licensed or Associate Level Marriage & Family Therapist (MFT), Mental Health Counselor (MHC), Psychologist and Social Worker Services

Adds provisionally licensed or associate level marriage & family therapist (MFT), mental health counselors (MHC), psychologist and social workers under licensed clinical supervision as qualified providers to be added to the “Service of Other Providers” section in Hawaii's Medicaid State Plan.

2. Attachment 4.19-B pg. 1.1-Payment methodology for Provisionally Licensed or Associate Level Marriage & Family Therapist (MFT), Mental Health Counselor (MHC), Psychologist and Social Worker Services description.

Payment for provisionally licensed and associate-level marriage and family therapist (MFT), mental health counselor (MHC), psychologist and social worker will be based on a state developed fee schedule which can be found at <https://medquest.hawaii.gov/en/plans-providers/fee-for-service/fee-schedules.html>

SPA 26-0010 is expected to have minimal effect on the annual aggregate expenditures.

The proposed changes will be submitted to the federal government for review as a Medicaid SPA.

A printed copy of the proposed changes and special accommodation (i.e., interpreter, large print, or taped materials) can be arranged if requested by contacting the Policy and Program Development Office at (808) 692-8058 no later than seven (7) working days before the comment period ends.

Comments should be received **within 30 days** of the time this notice is posted. Individuals may submit written comments using the following methods:

By email: PPDO@dhs.hawaii.gov (Please identify in the subject line: State Plan Amendment 26-0010)

By mail:

Department of Human Services
Med-QUEST Division
Attention: Policy and Program Development Office
P.O Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, MED-QUEST DIVISION
MEREDITH NICHOLS
MED-QUEST DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR

6d. Services of Other Providers (continued)

- ii. Iii. Services provided by provisionally licensed or associate level marriage & family therapists, mental health counselors, psychologists and social workers under licensed clinical supervision...within their scope of practice according to state law.

TN No. SPA 26-0010
Supersedes
TN No. NEW

Approval Date: _____ **Effective Date:** 07/01/2026

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