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October 7, 2026

MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO.
QI-2623
FFS 26-10

TO: Quest Integration Plans

FROM: Meredith Nichols *mn*
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF GENDER AFFIRMING CARE FOR MINORS

On August 11, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a statement about a new rule that prohibits the use of federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding for certain gender-affirming care services for minors. The rule takes effect October 13, 2026.

The Hawaii Med-Quest Division (MQD) supports Hawaii families and their access to evidence-based, medically necessary care. This includes access to gender-affirming care for eligible Hawaii medicaid clients when it is clinically appropriate and recommended by a qualified provider.

MQD will comply with federal law while continuing to support access to medically necessary care. As MQD loses access to federal funds beginning on October 13, 2026, state funds will be used to maintain coverage of medically necessary gender-affirming care for eligible Hawaii Medicaid minors when it is clinically appropriate and recommended by a qualified provider.

MQD is assessing potential impacts to the Hawaii Medicaid program. In the coming weeks, MQD will issue more detailed guidance addressing effective dates, services impacted, claim billing and reimbursement changes, and contractual and compliance considerations.

Providers should continue to follow existing Med-QUEST policies regarding gender affirming care.

Should you have any questions regarding this memorandum please email

HCSBInquiries@dhs.hawaii.gov.