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## Health Care Authority and New Mexico Corrections Department Reentry Medicaid Waiver

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### Health Care Authority Request

- Recently the federal government approved New Mexico's application for an incarceration reentry initiative effective through 2029 to provide Medicaid coverage to incarcerated individuals in tribal, state, or local correctional facilities, as well as youth correctional facilities, that are within 90-days of release. The initiative is part of a broader effort from the federal government to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals by reducing healthcare disparities and supporting successful community reintegration.
- Specifically, services under the new Medicaid waiver authority aim to enhance care transitions by addressing physical and behavioral health needs and promoting continuity of care post-release. The services include:
  - Case management to assess and coordinate physical, behavioral health, and social needs,
  - Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for all types of substance use disorders, including counseling,
  - 30-day supply of prescription medications provided immediately upon release,
  - Diagnostic services including lab and radiology,
  - Additional prescribed drugs beyond MAT and the 30-day supply,
  - Medical equipment and supplies provided upon release,
  - Family planning services and supplies,
  - Community health worker services,
  - Peer support services,
  - Hepatitis C treatment, and
  - Clinical consultation services for physical and behavioral health needs, supporting case management and discharge planning
- Additionally, new federal Medicaid requirements will require states to provide certain behavioral health services to incarcerated youth with expanded services through state Medicaid waivers. States are required to provide screenings, diagnoses, and referral services for all incarcerated youth 30 days prior to release, and states must provide case management services as well. States have the option to cover additional behavioral health services for youth pending the disposition of charges. The new Medicaid provisions for youth go into effect January 2025.

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- New Mexico is required to submit a detailed reentry initiative implementation plan and reinvestment plan to the federal government outlining operational strategies and the use of federal matching funds.
    - The reinvestment plan will document how the state will operationalize coverage and provision of pre-release services and how existing funding for inmate health will continue to support access to necessary care and achievement of positive health outcomes for the justice-involved population.
    - The implementation plan for New Mexico's Reentry Demonstration Initiative requires the state to detail how it will operationalize pre-release services, including milestones, actions, and timelines. The plan must outline strategies to meet these goals, address potential operational challenges, and ensure compliance with demonstration requirements.
  - The timeline for when these plans will be submitted and approved has not been communicated.