



INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2466-MC-FFS

DATE: June 1, 2023

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacies, Home Health Agencies, Clinics, Physician Assistants

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Iowa Medicaid

RE: Specialty Drug Administration – Alternative Site of Care (SOC)

EFFECTIVE: June 1, 2023

The SOC refers to the physical location where a specialty drug is administered. Medically necessary services should be rendered in the least intensive setting appropriate for the delivery of services and supplies. Alternative SOCs, such as non-hospital outpatient infusions, physicians' offices, ambulatory infusions, or home infusions, are accepted places of service for provider-administered specialty drug therapy. The therapy must be appropriate for alternative SOC, and the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for the specific drug must be opened for home administration.

The goal of the Iowa Medicaid Specialty Drug Administration – Alternative SOC program is to provide members with alternative SOC options for select chronic, provider-administered specialty drugs when appropriate (i.e., improve access and accessibility).

Certain situations may not be suitable for alternative SOC utilization, such as whether a member is clinically stable and susceptible to complications. A managed care organization (MCO) may decline coverage for alternative SOC if the situation is not clinically appropriate.

Additional information:

- If the HCPCS in question has other coverage requirements (e.g., prior authorization), those requirements still apply.
- If a prior authorization was previously obtained and the servicing provider changes, a new prior authorization request may be required; check with the individual MCO for specific prior authorization requirements.

- When an alternative SOC is used, periodic reassessment of the individual’s ability to receive therapy at the alternative SOC may be required; check with the individual MCO for details regarding authorization duration and any required reassessment periods.
- Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.
- As codes for provider-administered specialty drugs are opened for home administration, they will be added to the table in the link below.

The list of specialty drugs that are currently open to Provider Type 08 (pharmacy) and Place of Service 12 (patient’s home) can be found on the [Covered Services, Rates, and Payments](#)¹ webpage under the Specialty Drug Administration – Alternative SOC header.

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services or the appropriate MCO:

Iowa Medicaid Provider Services for FFS members:

- Provider services: 1-800-338-7909
- Provider email: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us

Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.:

- Provider services: 1-800-454-3730
- Provider email: iowamedicaid@amerigroup.com
- Website: <https://providers.amerigroup.com/ia>

Iowa Total Care:

- Provider services: 1-833-404-1061
- Provider email: Providers may send email using their account on the ITC website.
- Website: <https://www.iowatotalcare.com>

¹ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/csrp>