



Senate Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response

Agency for Health Care Administration

Acting Secretary Shevaun Harris



Key Priorities



1. Ensuring
Access to Care



2. Rapid Response
as COVID Cases
Increased



3. Ensuring
Access to Up-to
Date Information










4. Florida's
Vaccination
Efforts





6 Emergency
Orders

15 Emergency
Rules

-  Declaration of a National Emergency - Allocation of Resources
-  Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Control Flexibilities
-  CDC Guidance on Infection Control for Health Care Providers
-  Certification Mandates for Visitation and Infection Control
-  Federal Reporting for Hospitals, Skilled Nursing, and Laboratories
-  Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers
-  Delivery System and Provider Payment Guidance





Federal Blanket Waivers

Series of flexibilities activated during emergencies



Nursing Facilities

- Waiver of 3-day prior hospitalization for Medicare reimbursement
- Waiver of Pre-Admission Screening and Annual Resident review (PASRR)
- Flexibility in room utilization to accommodate surge



Hospitals

- Alternate care sites
- Acute Care at Home/
Hospitals Without walls



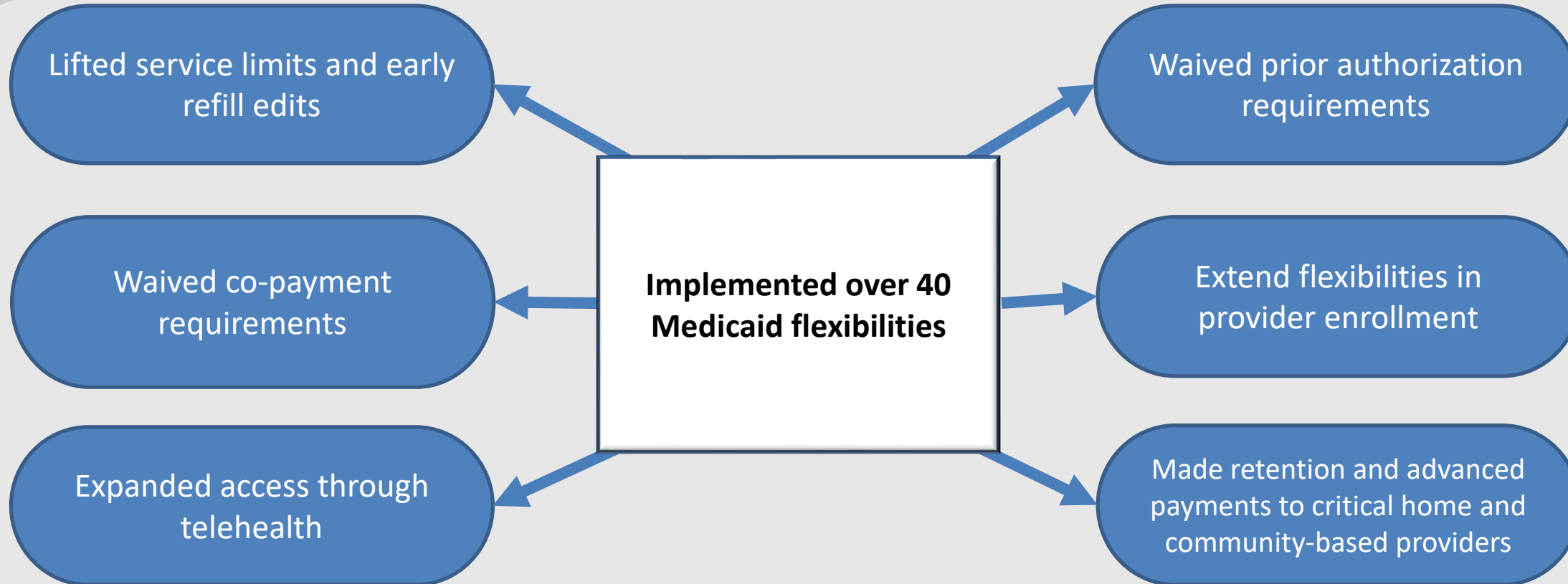
All Providers

- Waiver of certain physical environment requirements
- Waiver of prescriptive requirements for alcohol-based hand-rub dispensers



Ensuring Access to Care

Ensured Medicaid recipient access to needed health care services





Initial visitor and staff screening toolkit

Enhanced infection and prevention control oversight

Limiting entry of non-essential personnel in LTC facilities

Hospital screening requirements for long-term care residents

Mandatory testing for LTC facility staff

Governor DeSantis' Task Force on the Safe and Limited Re-Opening of Long-Term Care Facilities





Established dedicated COVID-19 isolation nursing facilities

Developed innovative model of COVID-19 isolation nursing facilities, dedicated to serving patients in need of long-term care services who were also diagnosed with COVID-19.

Allowed for appropriate isolation and recovery of COVID-19 positive patients

First group of facilities established in April 2020 – approximately 200 beds available

Regional resources for any COVID-19 positive patient requiring nursing facility level of care

Required to accept patients with any type of insurance and patients who were uninsured

By July, the Agency had executed agreements with 23 facilities statewide with the capacity to serve up to 1,500 patients needing COVID-19 isolation.



Ensuring Access to Information

Enhanced outbound communications/ information to providers through AHCA website



Online COVID-19 information portal to provide guidance for facilities and Medicaid providers, including information on:

Federal provider relief funding

Medicaid flexibilities

CMS Waivers and CDC guidelines

COVID-19 reporting requirements for facilities

Emergency Orders and Rules issued by the State related to COVID-19





Align Medicaid program policy and operation to ensure vaccine coverage

Established broad coverage policy to ensure all recipients have access to vaccinations. Efforts include ensuring:



Coverage of the COVID-19 vaccine for all Medicaid recipients who have full Medicaid benefits



No co-payments

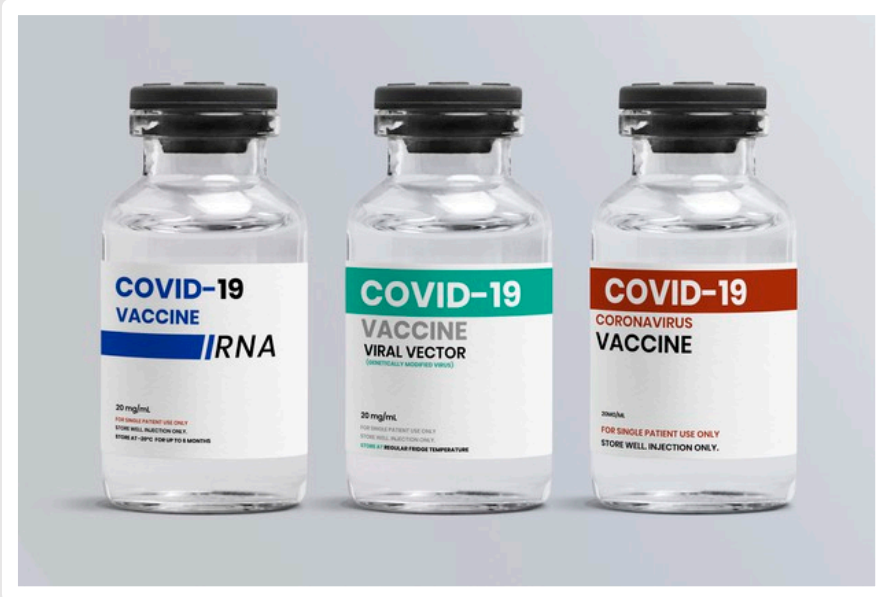


Medicaid vaccine administration fee is equivalent to Medicare vaccine administration fee



Medicaid health plans must have open provider networks for vaccine administration





- Emergency rules require nursing homes and ALFs to participate in CDC Pharmacy Partnership with Walgreens and CVS
- Collected vaccine data from hospitals and long-term care facilities that could be used to support vaccine allocation efforts
- Leveraging provider partnerships to respond to needs and questions





Questions?

