



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6643**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS EXAMINATIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of  
2 Social Services shall provide Medicaid reimbursement, to the extent  
3 permissible under federal law, for suicide risk assessments and other  
4 mental health evaluations and services provided at a school-based  
5 health center or at a public school.

6 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall amend the Medicaid  
7 state plan if necessary to provide reimbursement for the suicide risk  
8 assessments and mental health evaluations and services described in  
9 subsection (a) of this section and shall set reimbursement at a level  
10 adequate to ensure an adequate pool of providers for such suicide risk  
11 assessments and mental health evaluations and services.

12 Sec. 2. Section 38a-488e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

14 (a) For the purposes of this section:

15 (1) "Licensed mental health professional" means: (A) A licensed  
16 professional counselor or professional counselor, both as defined in  
17 section 20-195aa; (B) a person who is under professional supervision, as  
18 defined in section 20-195aa; (C) a physician licensed pursuant to chapter  
19 370, who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry  
20 and Neurology; (D) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed  
21 pursuant to chapter 378, who is certified as a psychiatric and mental  
22 health clinical nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American  
23 Nurses Credentialing Center; (E) a psychologist licensed pursuant to  
24 chapter 383; (F) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to  
25 chapter 383a; (G) a licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to  
26 chapter 383b; or (H) an alcohol and drug counselor licensed under  
27 chapter 376b; and

28 (2) "Mental health wellness examination" means a screening or  
29 assessment that seeks to identify any behavioral or mental health needs  
30 and appropriate resources for treatment. The examination may include:  
31 (A) Observation; (B) a behavioral health screening; (C) education and  
32 consultation on healthy lifestyle changes; (D) referrals to ongoing  
33 treatment, mental health services and other necessary supports; (E)  
34 discussion of potential options for medication; (F) age-appropriate  
35 screenings or observations to understand the mental health history,  
36 personal history and mental or cognitive state of the person being  
37 examined; and (G) if appropriate, relevant input from an adult through  
38 screenings, interviews or questions. [;]

39 [(3) "Primary care provider" has the same meaning as provided in  
40 section 19a-7o; and

41 (4) "Primary care" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-  
42 7o.]

43 (b) (1) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of  
44 the type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-  
45 469 and delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued  
46 in this state on or after January 1, 2023, (A) shall provide coverage for

47 two mental health wellness examinations per year that are performed  
48 by a licensed mental health professional, [or primary care provider,] and  
49 (B) shall not require prior authorization of such examinations.

50 (2) The mental health wellness examinations [:(A) May each be  
51 provided by a primary care provider as part of a preventive visit; and  
52 (B)] shall be covered with no patient [cost-sharing] cost sharing.

53 (c) The provisions of this section shall apply to a high deductible  
54 health plan, as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-493, to  
55 the maximum extent permitted by federal law, except if such plan is  
56 used to establish a medical savings account or an Archer MSA pursuant  
57 to Section 220 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from  
58 time to time, or any subsequent corresponding Internal Revenue Code  
59 of the United States, as amended from time to time, or a health savings  
60 account pursuant to Section 223 of said Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
61 as amended from time to time, the provisions of this section shall apply  
62 to such plan to the maximum extent that (1) is permitted by federal law,  
63 and (2) does not disqualify such account for the deduction allowed  
64 under said Section 220 or 223, as applicable.

65 Sec. 3. Section 38a-514e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
66 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

67 (a) For the purposes of this section:

68 (1) "Licensed mental health professional" means: (A) A licensed  
69 professional counselor or professional counselor, as defined in section  
70 20-195aa; (B) a person who is under professional supervision, as defined  
71 in section 20-195aa; (C) a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370,  
72 who is certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and  
73 Neurology; (D) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant  
74 to chapter 378, who is certified as a psychiatric and mental health clinical  
75 nurse specialist or nurse practitioner by the American Nurses  
76 Credentialing Center; (E) a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter  
77 383; (F) a marital and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a;

78 (G) a licensed clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b;  
79 or (H) an alcohol and drug counselor licensed under chapter 376b; and

80 (2) "Mental health wellness examination" means a screening or  
81 assessment that seeks to identify any behavioral or mental health needs  
82 and appropriate resources for treatment. The examination may include:  
83 (A) Observation; (B) a behavioral health screening; (C) education and  
84 consultation on healthy lifestyle changes; (D) referrals to ongoing  
85 treatment, mental health services and other necessary supports; (E)  
86 discussion of potential options for medication; (F) age-appropriate  
87 screenings or observations to understand the mental health history,  
88 personal history and mental or cognitive state of the person being  
89 examined; and (G) if appropriate, relevant input from an adult through  
90 screenings, interviews or questions. [;]

91 [(3) "Primary care provider" has the same meaning as provided in  
92 section 19a-7o; and

93 (4) "Primary care" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-  
94 7o.]

95 (b) (1) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the  
96 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
97 and delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended or continued in  
98 this state on or after January 1, 2023, (A) shall provide coverage for two  
99 mental health wellness examinations per year that are performed by a  
100 licensed mental health professional, [or primary care provider,] and (B)  
101 shall not require prior authorization of such examinations.

102 (2) The mental health wellness examinations [: (A) May each be  
103 provided by a primary care provider as part of a preventive visit; and  
104 (B)] shall be covered with no patient [cost-sharing] cost sharing.

105 (c) The provisions of this section shall apply to a high deductible  
106 health plan, as that term is used in subsection (f) of section 38a-520, to  
107 the maximum extent permitted by federal law, except if such plan is  
108 used to establish a medical savings account or an Archer MSA pursuant

109 to Section 220 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from  
110 time to time, or any subsequent corresponding Internal Revenue Code  
111 of the United States, as amended from time to time, or a health savings  
112 account pursuant to Section 223 of said Internal Revenue Code, as  
113 amended from time to time, the provisions of this section shall apply to  
114 such plan to the maximum extent that (1) is permitted by federal law,  
115 and (2) does not disqualify such account for the deduction allowed  
116 under said Section 220 or 223, as applicable.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	38a-488e
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	38a-514e

**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**HS**        *Joint Favorable*