



Public comment period on SUD Labs network adequacy

NJ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
Shanique McGowan Power

5TH OCTOBER 2026

Housekeeping



All attendees will enter the meeting on **mute**



This **meeting will be recorded** to act as an ongoing resource



You can **enable closed captions** at the bottom of the screen



Submit any **questions on logistics using the "Q&A" function**, directed to the State



Materials and recording will be published and available on DMAHS website

Agenda

Welcome, housekeeping and introduction	10 min
Current network adequacy standards	5 min
Logistics and next steps	10 min
State Q&A regarding comment period logistics	5 min

Welcome and introductions

Purpose of today's meeting:

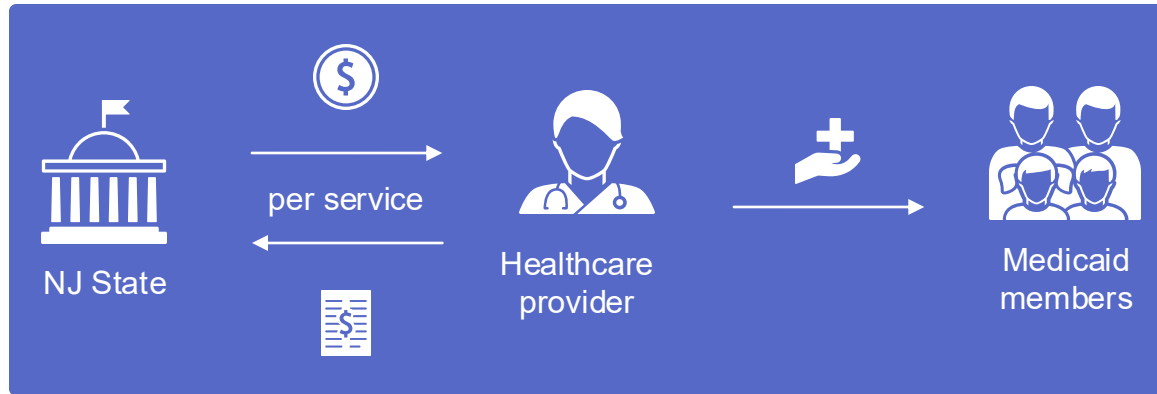
Today's session **will provide background on NJ FamilyCare's substance use disorder (SUD) in-network independent lab network adequacy standards and explain how you can share your feedback** on these during the upcoming public comment period

State Staff here to answer questions

- Shanique McGowan Power, Behavioral Health Unit
- Steve Tunney, Behavioral Health Unit

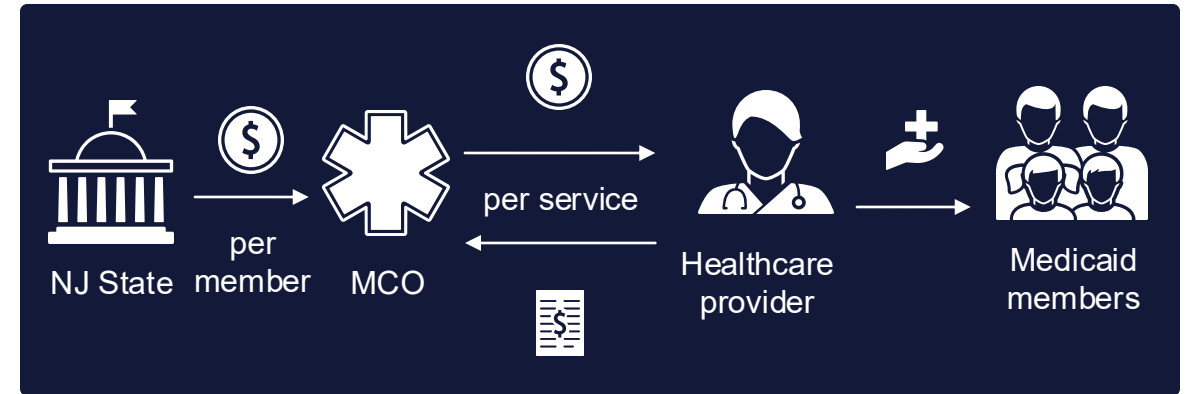
NJ FamilyCare/NJ Medicaid has two models

1 Fee-for-service (FFS)



Traditional model

2 Managed Care



Value based model

1. FFS also used for members not enrolled in a managed care organization (MCO) and members with presumptive eligibility

SUD Labs were integrated into managed care on July 1st

Jan 1, 2025

Phase 1

Outpatient BH Services
(for adults & children)

Mental Health (MH) and
Substance Use Disorder
services

Jul 1, 2026

SUD Laboratory Services

Presumptive and
definitive drug tests (with
SUD diagnosis) run by
independent labs

Independent labs are
those not attached to
hospitals, clinics, etc

Jan 2027

Phase 2

Residential & Opioid
Treatment Programs

- SUD short-term residential
- SUD — medically monitored inpatient withdrawal management
- SUD long-term residential
- Opioid treatment programs (OTPs)

TBD¹

Phase 3

Additional BH services
TBC

Scope remains TBC,
services under
consideration include:
Adult mental health
rehab,² Opioid Overdose
Recovery Programs,
Psychiatric Emergency,
and more

1. Scope and timing of Phase 3 to be determined after Phase 1 and 2 go-live based on additional analysis and stakeholder input 2. For core Medicaid only – no change for carved-in populations

Context on SUD independent labs network adequacy and the upcoming public comment period

- **The July 2026 transition of SUD lab billing to managed care surfaced provider questions** about in-network independent lab options for some managed care organizations
- **DMAHS is seeking public input on SUD lab network adequacy** to inform whether current standards should be revisited
- During the public comment period, DMAHS will seek to **understand stakeholders' perspectives on the current standards** and any changes they might recommend
- Stakeholders are also welcome to submit any questions for the state on these standards as a part of their comments

Current network adequacy standards for MCO independent lab networks

Current network standards for independent laboratories in the MCO contract (Section 4.8.8 – Provider network requirements)

Access standards	• 1 Providers within 15 miles of 90% of all members within the county
Servicing county standards	• Minimum 2 providers per servicing county

All MCOs currently meet these standards; as the standards are currently applied today, each lab location with a unique identifier (NPI – National Provider Identifier) is counted as a separate provider

Logistics and next steps

When can I submit a comment?

The comment period will **open on 12th October** and close at 5pm on the 26th October

No late comments will be considered

How can I submit a comment?

- Once the comment period opens, visit [DMHAS Behavioral Health Integration Resources Page](#)
- Read the information located on the website
- Send your comment as an email, word document, or PDF to DMAHS.SUDLabIntegration@dhs.nj.gov
- Comments should be professional in nature and should not reveal confidential personal information
- **Note that all comments received may be posted publicly on the DMHAS website after the comment period ends as part of this process, and attributed to your organization**

Given the volume of feedback anticipated, DMAHS will not respond to each comment individually, however every comment received will be read and considered

Closing and Q&A regarding logistics

Thank you for participating in this process