



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
MCO Transmittal No. 284
October 2, 2026

TO: Managed Care Organizations
Gender-Affirming Care Providers

FROM: Lorena de Leon, Director *Lorena de Leon*
Office of Medical Benefits Management

Mark Esposito, Director *Mark A. Esposito, MD*
Clinical Transformation Unit

RE: Gender-Affirming Care Final Rule Guidance

NOTE: **Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.**

This transmittal updates providers on coverage for Gender-Affirming Care (GAC) services for minors. On August 13, 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published final rule [CMS-2451-F](#), which prohibits states from drawing down federal matching dollars for GAC for minors under 18, effective October 13, 2026. The rule does not prohibit states from using state-only funds to cover these services.

Under the Trans Health Equity Act (THEA) of 2023 (HB0283/CH0253), Maryland Medicaid is required to provide gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner to all participants, including minors. Services currently covered under THEA include medically necessary hormonal therapies, labs and procedures.

To comply with federal and state requirements, Maryland Medicaid will continue to fund GAC services for minors using state dollars. Providers should continue to provide and bill GAC services for minors as usual.

For questions regarding this transmittal, please contact mdh.medicaidthea@maryland.gov.