



OREGON  
**HEALTH**  
AUTHORITY

January 29, 2025

# Providers Listening Session

Benefit Update Project

# Interpretation

Para ingresar al canal de interpretación utilizando:

- **Computadora de escritorio/portátil**  
Haga clic en el ícono del globo terráqueo que dice interpretación situado en la parte inferior derecha de su pantalla.

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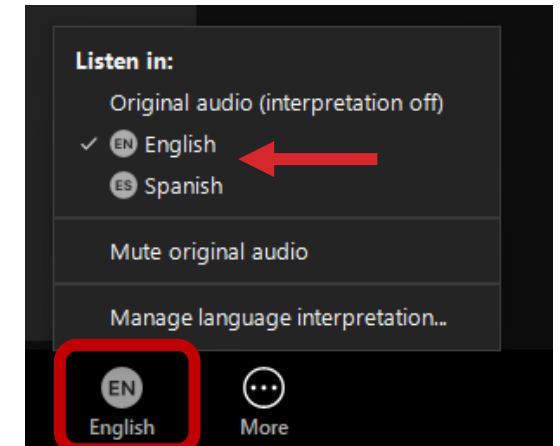
- **Teléfono o tableta:**  
Presione los 3 puntos que dicen ("... más") en la parte inferior derecha o superior derecha de su pantalla y seleccione interpretación en el nuevo menú.

To join the interpretation channel using:

- **Desktop/Laptop computer:**  
Click the globe icon that says interpretation located at the bottom right of your computer screen.

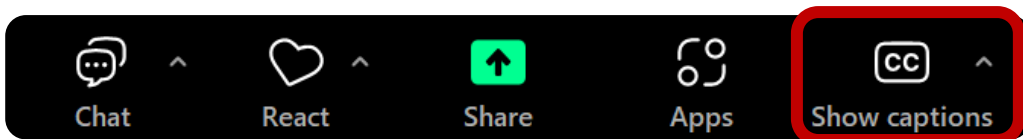
Or

- **Phone or Tablet:**  
Press the 3 dots that say ("... more") at the bottom right or upper right hand side of your screen and select language interpretation in the new menu.



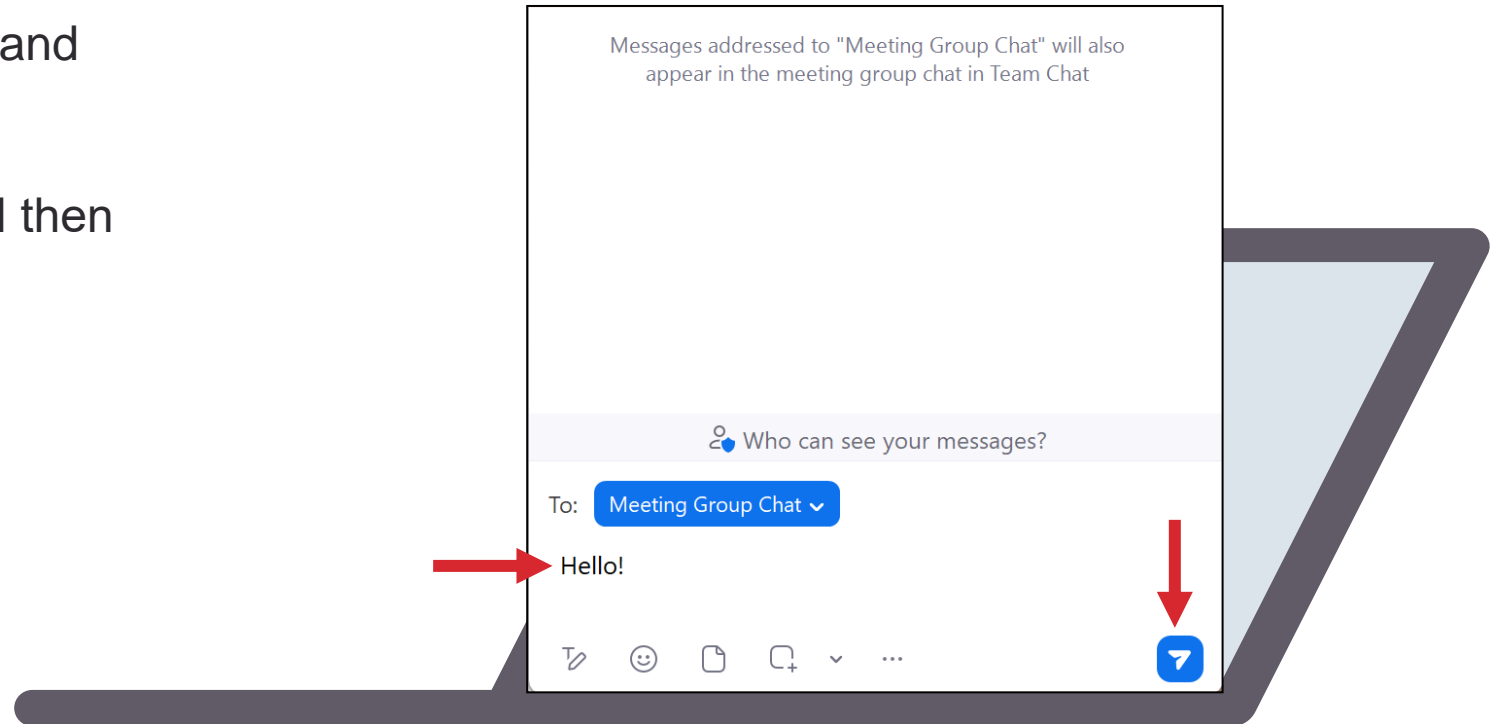
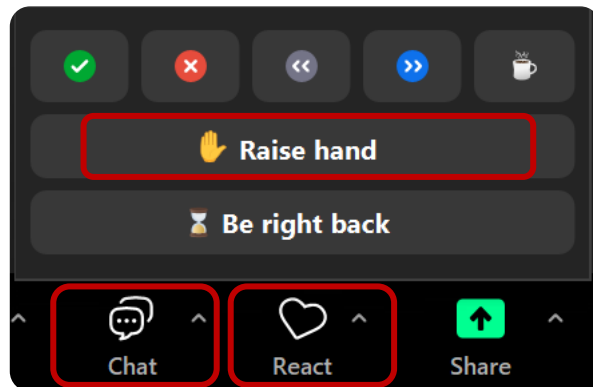
# Zoom meeting instructions

- At the bottom middle of your screen, you should see a menu of options. If you can't see the menu, hover your mouse over the bottom middle of the screen.
- Click on the “CC” icon and a separate window with captions will appear.



# Zoom meeting tip: Asking questions

- Click on the “Chat” icon in your tool bar.
- The chat will open on the right-hand side of the Zoom window.
- Type your question into the text box and press “Enter” to send.
- To raise your hand, click “React” and then “Raise hand.”



# Team Introductions

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- **Dr. Lea Forsman Ph.D.** – BUP Project Lead
- **Lisa Bui** – Quality Improvement Director
- **Dr. Dawn Mautner, MD, MS** – Medicaid Medical Director
- **Dr. Ahmed Farag, DDS, MBA, DHSc, FACHE** – Oral Health Dental Director
- **Dr. Satyasandipani Pradhan MHA, Ph.D.** – Project Engagement Lead

# Oregon Health Plan (OHP) - Benefit Update Project (BUP) Most Important Take-Aways

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- A project to update the organization of OHP benefits so that all medically necessary services within the scope of OHP are covered.
- This change is mostly administrative rather than a change to **how** OHP services are **delivered**.
- No members will lose services as a result of this transition.
- Some services not covered today will be added to the benefit package.



# As of January 1, 2027

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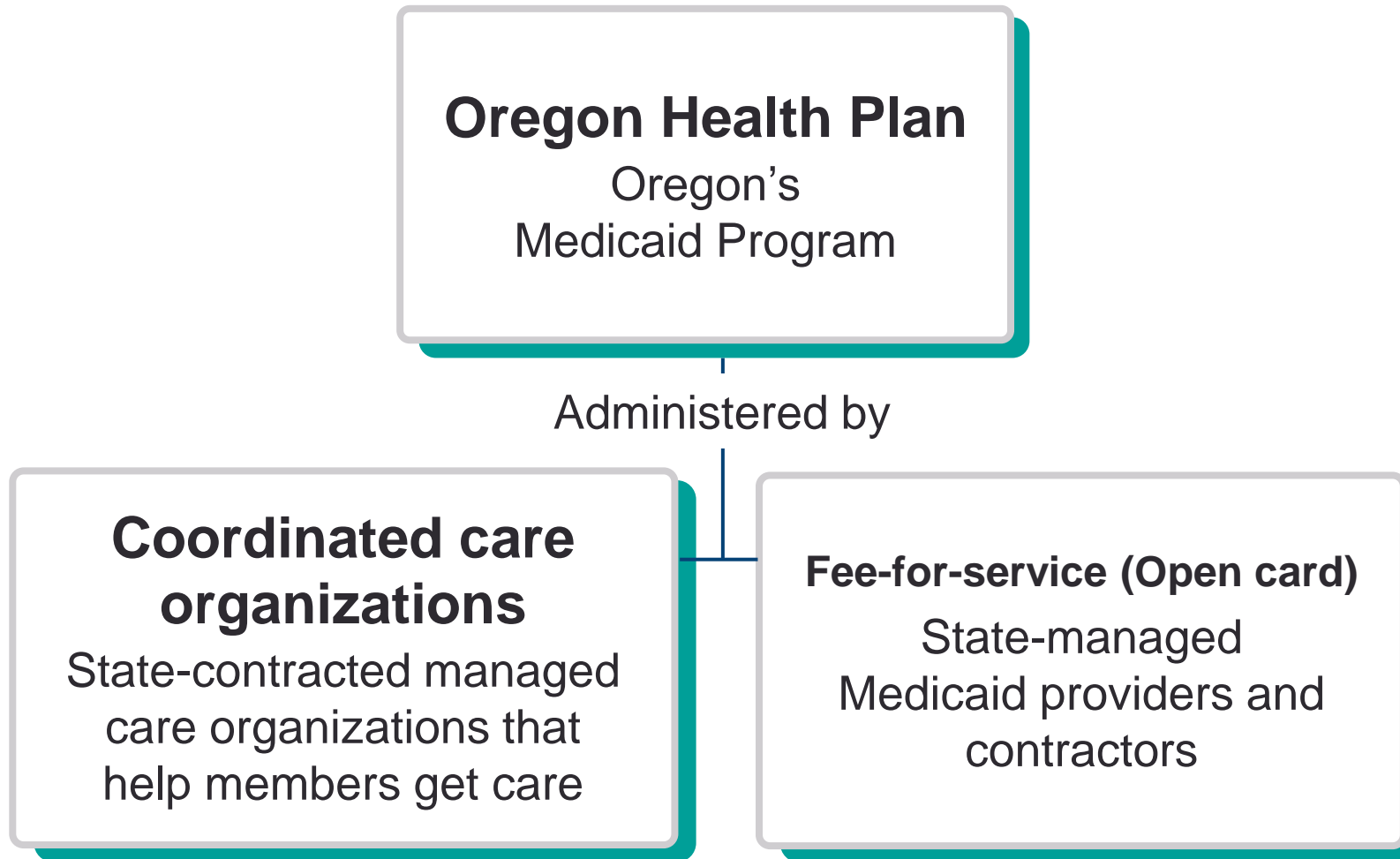
**Providers' job will remain what it is today:  
take care of patients.**

**Thank you!**

- Claims processes remain the same from clinician perspective (although billing systems updates may be needed)
- Some additional services will be covered, so please request or order what your patients need, and/or
- Advocate at HERC for non-covered services you think should be covered.

# Administration of benefits: CCOs and Fee-for-service

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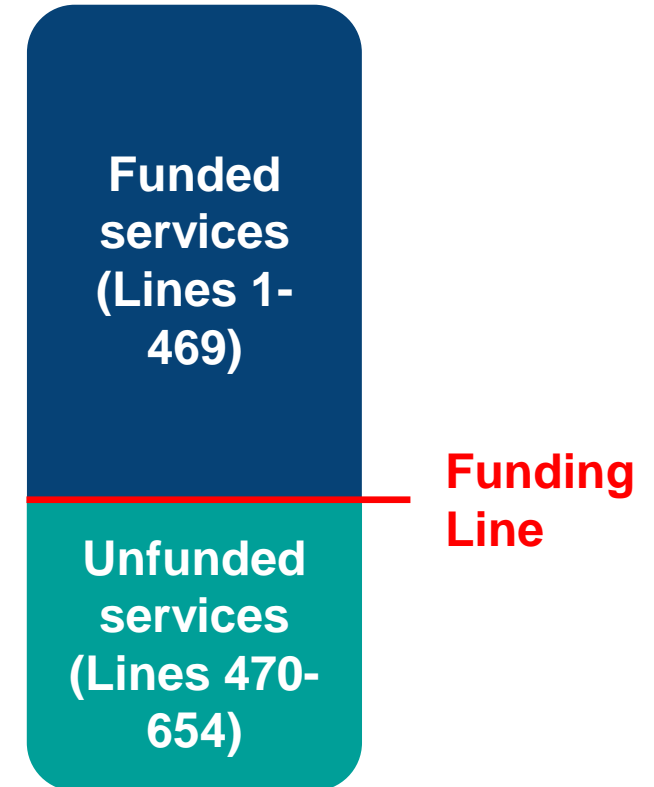




# OHP Benefit Organization

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- Since 1994 Oregon has used the Prioritized List of Health Services as the basis for most OHP coverage decisions.
- Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) provides evidence-based reviews of services and ranks them on the List
- Legislature sets a funding line - services above the funding line are funded and those below the funding line are not covered.



# 2012 – 2026: OHP Benefit Organization

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## Prioritized List:

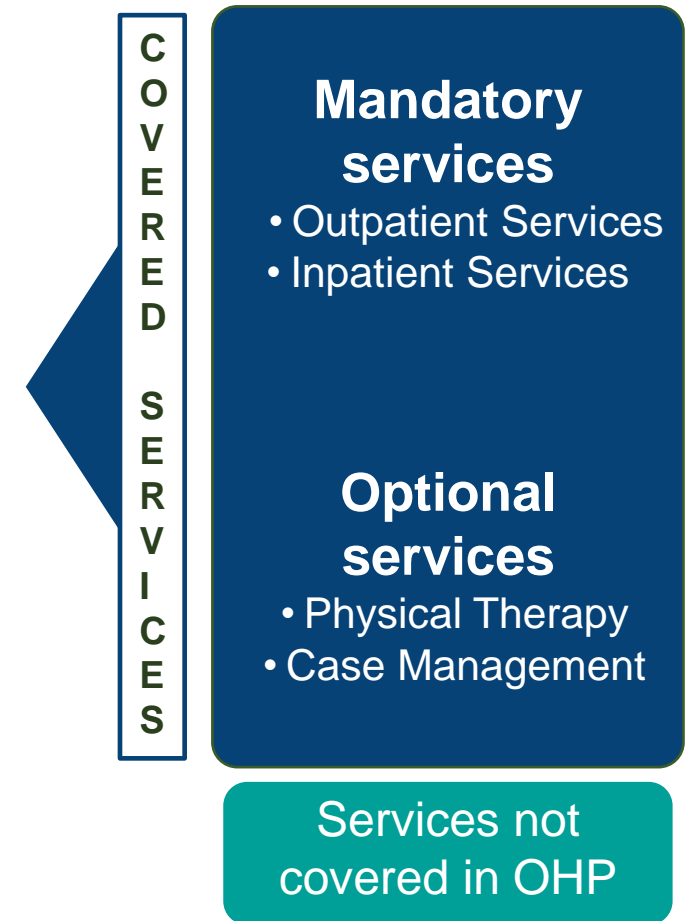
- No longer serving as a budgeting tool
- Oregon's funding line hasn't moved up since 2012
- 97% of Oregonians have health coverage now
- Doesn't cover some Mandatory services (per federal guidelines)
- 2026- Special waiver from federal rules, that allows Oregon to use Prioritized List, expires on 12/31/2026.

*This transition provides us with an opportunity to realign our benefit package with the federal requirements.*

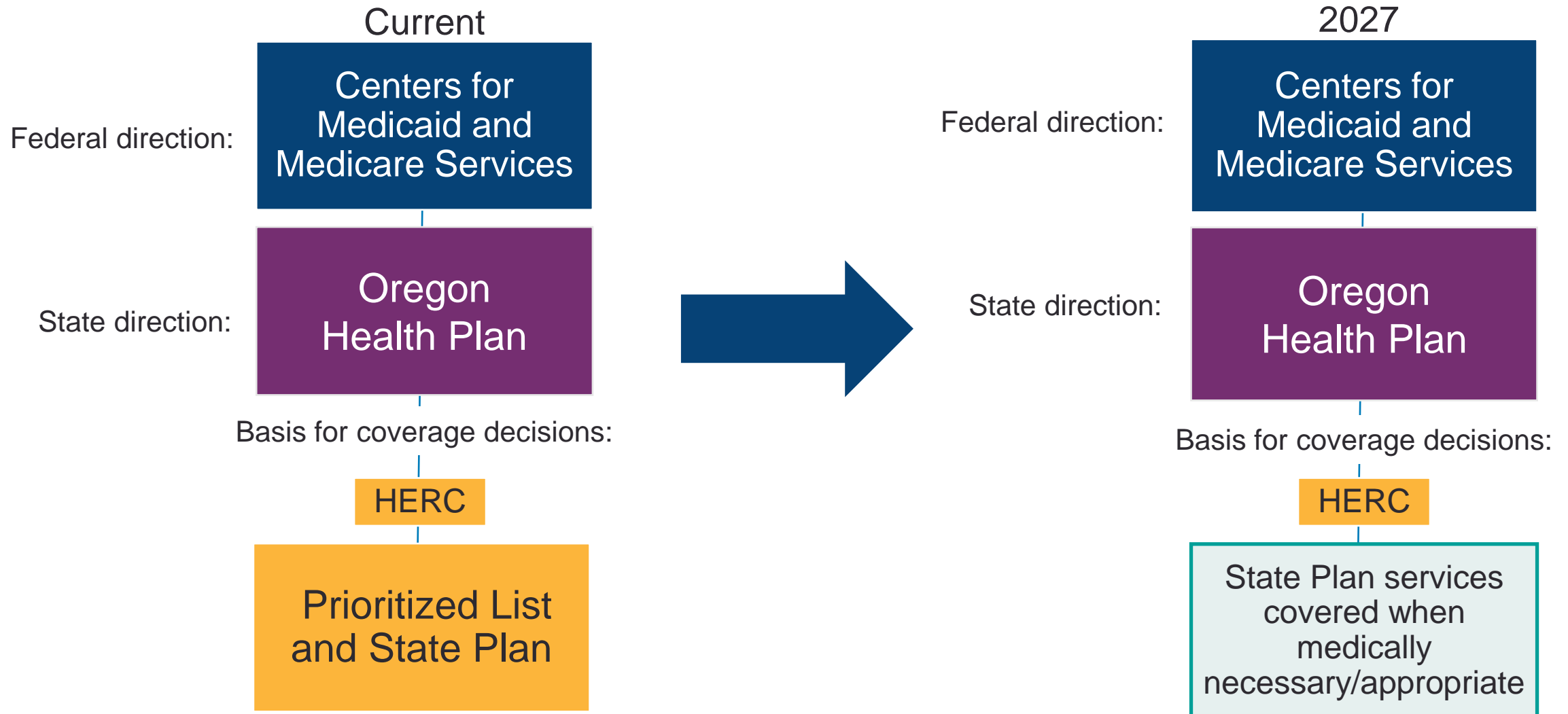
# Starting 2027 January – OHP benefit organization

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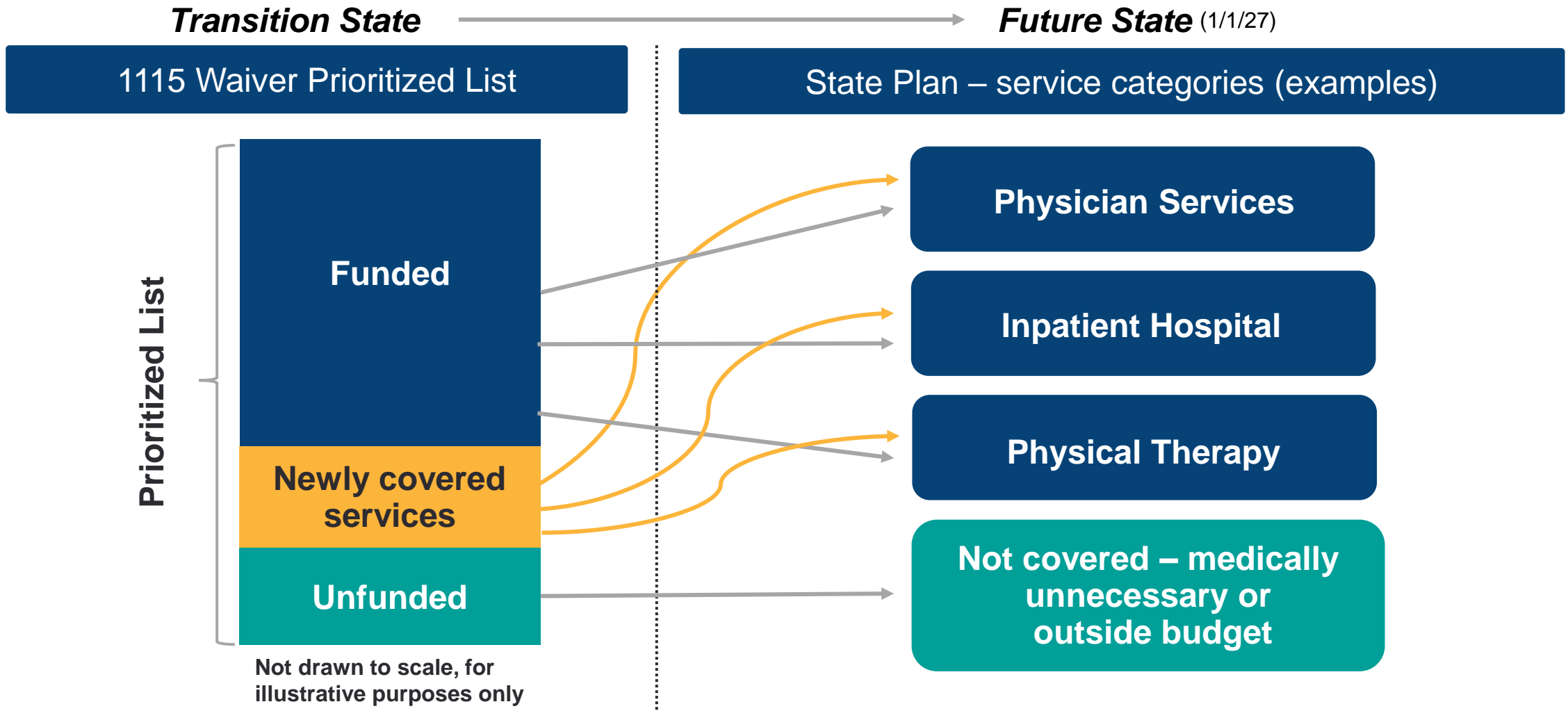
- Transition away from Prioritized List (Benefit Update Project, BUP)
  - Transition to service groups within Mandatory and Optional categories
    - Mandatory services – services states are required to cover per federal guidelines.
    - Optional services - services states can choose to cover
  - Some services currently below the funding line to be newly covered
- New appeals process for Open Card members
  - Note: CCO members already have an established appeals process



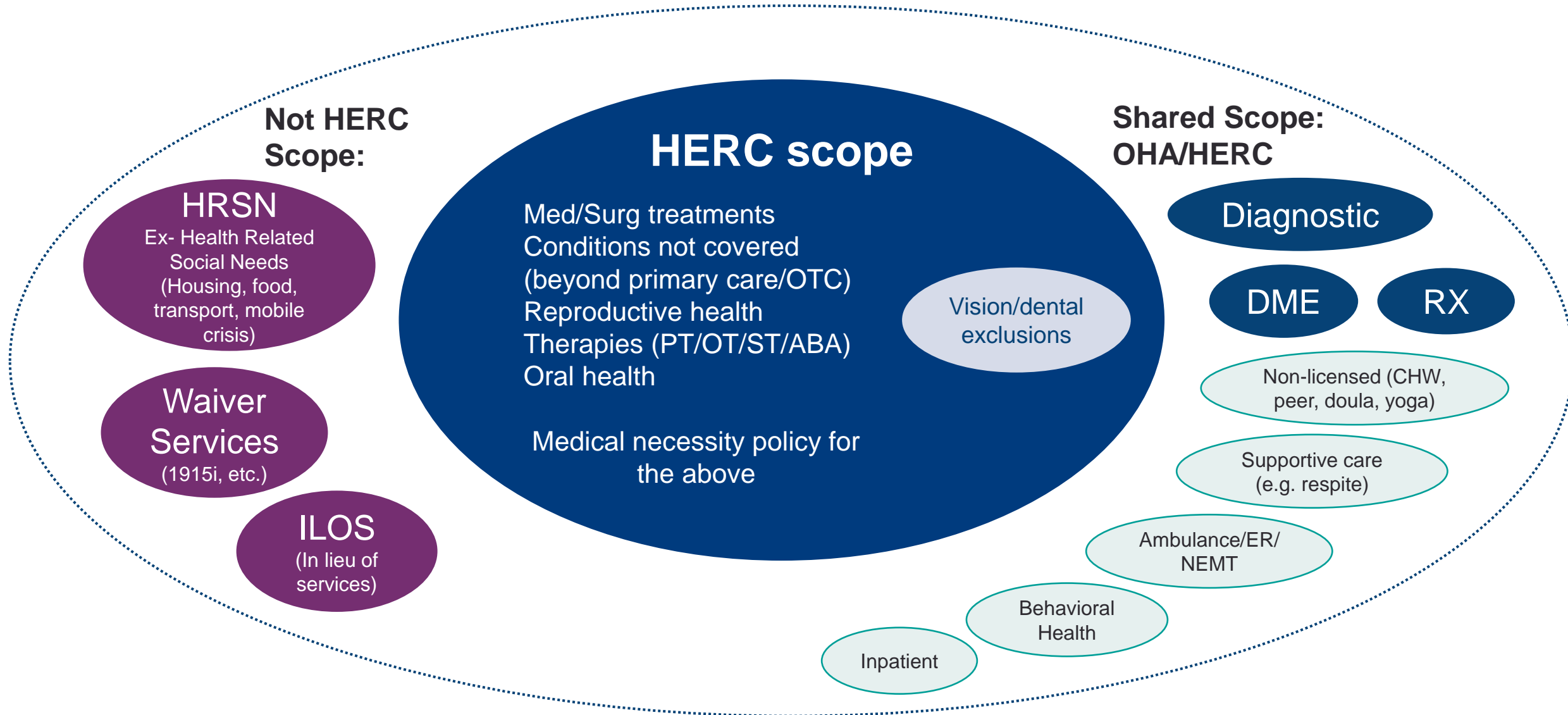
# OHP Benefits current state and future state



# Benefit Update Project – Background



# Scope of prioritized list / HERC



# Continuing 2027 January: OHP Covered Benefits

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- Oral Health benefits ([Optional benefits](#)) :
  - No anticipated changes as a result of this project.
  - Current limitations, such as those on crowns or root canals, etc. outside EPSDT and YSHCN population and beyond what is currently addressed in the [dental rule](#) will remain in place

# Starting 2027 January: OHP Newly Covered Benefits (1/2)

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- Behavioral Health benefits ([Optional benefits](#)) :
  - Small expansion including coverage of psychotherapy services for some additional diagnoses, such as somatization disorder, somatoform disorders and chronic pain disorders for which psychotherapy is considered medically necessary



## Starting 2027 January: OHP Newly Covered Benefits (2/2)

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- Physical Health or medical/surgical benefits (both [Mandatory and Optional services](#)) :
  - Some medically necessary services will be added.
  - The HERC workplan contains a list of services that are being reviewed and may be included in the OHP benefit:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/DSI-HERC/Pages//BUP-Workplan.aspx>
  - The Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee has produced a similar workplan for medications that may be added or updated (coming soon)

# Starting Jan 2027: What will change

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- Some new services will be added
- Denials for services will be based on lack of medical necessity (no denials based on a service position below-the-line)

# Continuing Jan 2027: What will not change

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- HERC will continue to do its jobs:
  - Provide evidence-based reviews resulting in:
    - Code pairing files
    - Guideline notes
    - Statements of intent
  - Maintain its decision-making role
  - HERC committee, subcommittees and public processes will continue
- Basis for benefit determination:
  - Medical Necessity (policy defined by individual states)
  - Program Rules: Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR)
  - Other OHA policies
- Some medically necessary services will remain outside the OHP benefit.

## **Continuing Jan 2027: What will not change**

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**Providers' job will remain what it is today:  
take care of patients.**

**Thank you!**

- Claims processes remain the same from clinician perspective (although billing systems updates may be needed)
- Some additional services will be covered, so please request or order what your patients need, and/or
- Advocate at HERC for non-covered services you think should be covered.

# How to Stay Updated on BUP

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1. General public Medicaid 1115 Waiver webinars.
  - All Come – Quarterly virtual meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. Pacific Time. [Register here.](#)  
Para Todos – Quarterly virtual meeting in Spanish on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. Pacific Time. [Register here.](#)
2. General Medicaid Provider Matters newsletter.
3. Provider listening sessions (next session anticipated in summer 2025).
4. Resources on the Benefit Update Project webpage:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/medicaid-policy/pages/benefit-update.aspx>
5. CCO Quality and Health Outcomes Committee – Monthly meeting. [View the meeting schedule.](#)

# Resources

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- Resources on the BUP:
  - BUP [Webpage](#)
  - BUP [Factsheet](#)
  - BUP [FAQ](#)
- Resources on the HERC:
  - HERC [Website](#)
  - HERC [work plan to review services for BUP](#)
  - [Opportunities to provide input to the HERC](#)
  - HERC Work Products: [Searchable Prioritized List, Guideline Notes, Multisector Interventions and Services Recommended for Non-Coverage](#)

# Opportunities for input

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- HERC will review services from below the funding line for transition to state plan
  - [Work plan](#) (with dates and topics) for discussion & decision making in public forum

HERC Benefit Update Project Work Plan (2025)

Page 1 of 2

Specialty area	Key Discussion issues	Meeting Date	Materials published for public comment no later than:
Ophthalmology (diseases of the eye)	* Lacrimal duct treatments for adults * Eyelid surgeries are recommended for new coverage * Procedures for many other eye conditions * Contact lenses for diseases of the surface of the eye	1/16/2025	12/5/2025

- CCO workgroup to address operational challenges (certain providers will be consulted on specific topics – TBD)
- Email comments or questions to: [1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov)

# Poll: Which is your preferred method of receiving updates?

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- General public Medicaid 1115 Waiver webinars
- General Medicaid Provider Matters newsletter
- Provider listening sessions
- Resources on the Benefit Update Project webpage





# Survey: Which topics do you want more education on?

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- What topics related to the Benefit Update Project do you want more information on?



# Survey: What concerns do you have?

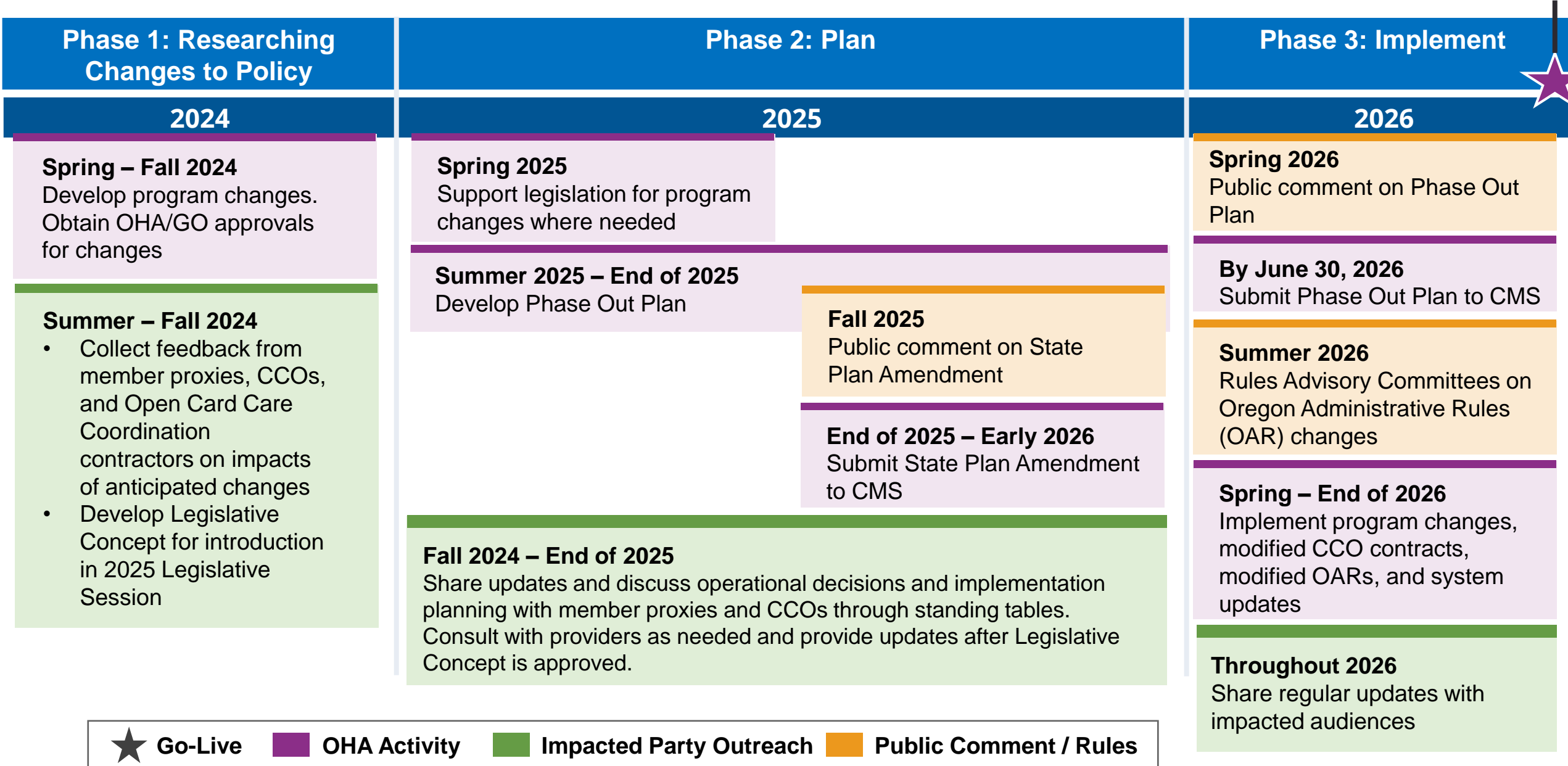
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- What potential barriers do you anticipate experiencing as a provider as a result of the Benefit Update Project?



# Streamlined Project Timeline

Go-live on 1/1/27



# Thank you

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- We want to know what you need from OHP!
  - We are looking to establish effective dialogue with you more broadly throughout 2025:
  - New Medicaid Medical Leadership Team
    - Dr. Ahmed Farag, DDS, MBA, DHSc, FACHE, Medicaid Oral Health and Dental Director
    - Dr. Meg Cary, MD, MPH, Medicaid Behavioral Health Medical Director
    - Dr. Dawn Mautner, MD, MS, Medicaid Medical Director
- HERC is the most direct way to advocate for specific OHP services that are not currently covered.

## Questions or Comments?

- Email: [1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov)
- Visit the [OHP Benefit Update Project web page](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Pages/Benefit-Update.aspx)  
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