



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

June 18, 2013

Dear Tribal Leader/Urban Indian Health Program Director:

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is writing in accordance with section 1902(a)(73)(A) of the Social Security Act (SSA) regarding the solicitation of advice prior to the submission of any Medicaid State Plan revision likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations.

Purpose

As discussed during the June 10, 2013, Tribal Consultation and Roundtable, the HCA intends to amend the Washington Transitional Bridge Demonstration Waiver. Specifically, it will request a waiver of section 1902(a)(17) of the SSA, to implement Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) eligibility determination methods beginning October 1, 2013. This will apply to all populations who will be subject to MAGI-based rules effective January 1, 2014 in compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It also will facilitate a streamlined enrollment experience using the new Washington Healthplanfinder online application.

Anticipated Impact on Tribal Members

The changes described above are expected to have no adverse effect on Washington's Tribes or American Indian/Alaskan Natives (AI/ANs) who are eligible for Medicaid coverage based on these methods. In fact, these changes will simplify Medicaid enrollment for eligible AI/ANs, which will accelerate access to Medicaid coverage and services.

Comments and Questions

The HCA would like to provide further opportunity for tribal representatives to give input or share concerns regarding this waiver amendment. Please review and return any comments to Stephen Kozak, Program Manager, by telephone at 360-725-1343 or via email at stephen.kozak@hca.wa.gov by July 31, 2013.

Please contact Karol Dixon, Tribal Health Program Manager by telephone at 360-725-1649 or via email at karol.dixon@hca.wa.gov if you have other tribal specific questions or would like to request further formal consultation.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

MaryAnne Lindeblad
Medicaid Director

cc: Stephen Kozak, Program Manager, EPSD, HCA
Karol Dixon, Native Health Program Manager, HCP, HCA
Tribal Health Directors and American Indian Health Commission Delegates
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board



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Cindy Mann
Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
7500 Security Boulevard
Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Mann:

In response to CMS' guidance regarding targeted enrollment strategies that are available to states to help facilitate a streamlined enrollment process for 2014, Washington State requests to amend the Washington Transitional Bridge Demonstration in order to adopt the MAGI-based eligibility determination methods beginning on October 1, 2013.

Specifically, we request a waiver of the requirements of section 1902(a)(17) of the Act to the extent necessary for Washington State to implement MAGI-based eligibility determination methods, from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, for all populations who will be subject to MAGI-based rules effective January 1, 2014.

I acknowledge that my request to implement the "early MAGI" approach is subject to Washington State's successful completion of an Operational Readiness Review demonstrating that the state's eligibility system will be able to accurately make MAGI-based eligibility determinations, and be fully operational on October 1, 2013.

We are not requesting any modifications to the Transitional Bridge Demonstration's budget neutrality agreement, as budget neutrality will not be affected by this amendment request.

Tribal consultation was held on June 10, 2013. A follow-up Tribal notification letter is attached with an opportunity for further comment up until July 31, 2013.

Please direct any comments or questions regarding this waiver amendment to Stephen Kozak at 360-725-1343, or e-mail at stephen.kozak@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Teeter
Director

cc: Stephen Kozak, Program Manager, Eligibility Policy and Service Delivery
Preston Cody, Assistant Director, Health Care Services, HCA
Karol Dixon, Native Health Program Manager, HCA
Jenny Hamilton, Health Care Policy, HCA
Kelly Heilmann, Project Officer, CMS Central Office
Nathan Johnson, Assistant Director, Health Care Policy, HCA
MaryAnne Lindeblad, Medicaid Director, HCA
Carol Peverly, CMS Regional Office
Jennifer Ryan, CMS Central Office