

## **Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is implementing the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration mandated by section 2707 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The law provides \$75 million to implement and evaluate the Demonstration. The 3-year Demonstration, which is not a grant program, will provide federal matching funds to States for Medicaid payments made to private psychiatric hospitals, with 17 or more beds, for inpatient emergency psychiatric care to Medicaid recipients aged 21 to 64; payments which are otherwise prohibited under Medicaid.

States will be competitively selected through a solicitation for application proposals from State Medicaid Program Directors. The States selected shall be limited in number to ensure sufficient funds are available for each participating State over the 3-year period to enable an informative assessment of any changes to access and quality of care for behavioral health services from the provision of payments for inpatient emergency psychiatric care.

An independent evaluation will be conducted for this Demonstration to evaluate its feasibility and cost effectiveness of the provision of these services under the Medicaid program, and to determine their impact on the functioning of the health, mental health, and substance abuse service systems within the participating States and on individuals enrolled in the Medicaid program.

A solicitation to State Medicaid agencies is expected in the summer of 2011.

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