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State/Territory Name: Alabama

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: AL-20-0020-COVI

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Children and Adults Health Programs Group

August 6, 2020

Scott Harris, MD, MPH
State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
Post Office Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36120-3017

Dear Dr. Harris:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan amendment (SPA) AL-20-0020-COVI, submitted on July 29, 2020, has been approved. This amendment has an effective date of March 1, 2020.

This amendment provides temporary adjustments to the state's cost sharing requirements in response to disaster events. This amendment, as it applies to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), waives cost-sharing for services related to COVID-19 testing and treatment effective March 1, 2020, through the duration of the state or federally-declared PHE, or at state discretion, a shorter period of time. We note that the waiver of cost-sharing for services related to COVID-19 testing will apply for the duration of the federal emergency declaration, as required by Section 6004 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

In the event of a future disaster, this SPA provides Alabama with the authority to implement the approved, temporary policy adjustments by simply notifying CMS of its intent, the effective date and duration of the provision, and a list of applicable Governor or federally-declared disaster or emergency areas. While the state must provide notice to CMS, this option provides an administratively streamlined pathway for the state to effectively respond to an evolving disaster event.

Your title XXI project officer is Jack Mirabella. They are available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Their contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-2424
E-mail: jack.mirabella@cms.hhs.gov

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If you have any questions, please contact Meg Barry, Acting Director, Division of State Coverage Programs, at (410) 786-1536. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/Signed Amy
Lutzky/

Amy Lutzky
Acting Deputy Director

Health Parity and Addiction Equity.

Submission Date: July 10, 2018

Proposed Effective Date: October 1, 2017*

Implementation Date: October 1, 2017*

***Note: Benefits were adjusted in October 2010 to be compliant with mental health parity; this amendment did not require any benefit changes**

Amendment 17 – AL-19-0017-RIM

- Reducing Infant Mortality (RIM) Health Service Initiative

Submission Date: July 17, 2019

Proposed Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Implementation Date: July 1, 2019

Amendment 18 – AL-19-0018-RIM

CS9 Eligibility – Coverage From Conception to Birth

Submission Date: July 17, 2019

Proposed Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Implementation Date: July 1, 2019

Amendment 19 – AL-20-0019-CEN

CS15 MAGI-Based Income Methodologies – Temporary Income

Submission Date: February 26, 2020

Proposed Effective Date: March 1, 2020

Implementation Date March 1, 2020

Pending Approval

Amendment 20 – AL-20-0020-COVI

Allowing for Temporary Waiving of cost sharing requirements for enrollees who reside and/or work in a State or Federally declared disaster area.

Submission Date: July 29, 2020

Implementation Date: March 1, 2020

Effective Date: March 1, 2020

Section 8. Cost-Sharing and Payment

Check here if the State elects to use funds provided under Title XXI only to provide expanded eligibility under the State’s Medicaid plan, and continue on to Section 9.

8.1. Is cost-sharing imposed on any of the children covered under the plan? (42CFR 457.505)Indicate if this also applies for pregnant women. (CHIPRA #2, SHO # 09-006, issued May 11, 2009)

- 8.1.1. Yes
- 8.1.2. No, skip to question 8.8.

- 8.1.1-PW Yes
- 8.1.2-PW No, skip to question 8.8.

Guidance: It is important to note that for families below 150 percent of poverty, the same limitations on cost sharing that are under the Medicaid program apply. (These cost-sharing limitations have been set forth in Section 1916 of the Social Security Act, as implemented by regulations at 42 CFR 447.50- 447.59). For families with incomes of 150 percent of poverty and above, cost sharing for all children in the family cannot exceed 5 percent of a family's income per year. Include a statement that no cost sharing will be charged for pregnancy-related services.(CHIPRA #2, SHO # 09-006, issued May 11, 2009) (Section 2103(e)(1)(A)) (42CFR 457.505(a), 457.510(b) and (c), 457.515(a) and (c))

8.2. Describe the amount of cost-sharing, any sliding scale based on income, the group or groups of enrollees that may be subject to the charge by age and income (if applicable) and the service for which the charge is imposed or time period for the charge, as appropriate.(Section 2103(e)(1)(A)) (42CFR 457.505(a), 457.510(b) and (c), 457.515(a) and (c))

At State discretion, cost sharing (including premiums and/or copayments) may be temporarily waived for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work in a State or Federally declared disaster area.

There will not be any cost sharing of any type for families who are Native Americans or Alaskan Natives. There will also not be any cost sharing of any type for families whose children are enrolled in a CHIP Medicaid expansion. For all other families cost sharing will be as follows in 8.2.1. and 8.2.3.:

8.2.1. Premiums:

There are three (3) categories of enrollees: No Fee (Native Americans and Alaskan Natives).