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State/Territory Name: Mississippi

State Plan Amendments (SPA) #: MS-20-0014-CHIP

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Children and Adults Health Programs Group

July 22, 2020

Drew Snyder
Executive Director, Mississippi Division of Medicaid
Walter Street Building
550 High Street, Suite 1000
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan amendment (SPA) MS-20-0014-CHIP, submitted on June 29, 2020, has been approved. This amendment provides temporary adjustments to the state's enrollment and redetermination policies and cost sharing requirements in response to disaster events. This amendment has an effective date of March 18, 2020.

This amendment, as it applies to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), implemented the following changes effective March 18, 2020, unless otherwise noted below, through the duration of the state or federally-declared PHE, or at state discretion, a shorter period of time:

- Waive requirements related to timely processing of applications and renewals (implemented March 23, 2020);
- Delay acting on changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries, other than the required changes in circumstance described in 42 CFR 457.342(a) cross-referencing 435.926(d) (implemented March 23, 2020); and
- Waive copayments for any COVID-19 testing-related services directly related to the evaluation of a beneficiary for purposes of determining the need for in vitro diagnostic products described in 2103(c)(10) of the Social Security Act, regardless of setting type.

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 Mississippi 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.

Page 2 – Mr. Drew Snyder

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) 786-0435
E-mail: jack.mirabella@cms.hhs.gov

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

TEMPLATE FOR CHILD HEALTH PLAN UNDER TITLE XXI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

(Required under 4901 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (New section 2101(b)))

State/Territory: Mississippi
(Name of State/Territory)

As a condition for receipt of Federal funds under Title XXI of the Social Security Act, (42 CFR § 457.40(b))

/s/
(Signature of Governor, or designee, of State/Territory, Date Signed)

submits the following Child Health Plan for the Children's Health Insurance Program and hereby agrees to administer the program in accordance with the provisions of the approved Child Health Plan, the requirements of Title XXI and XIX of the Act (as appropriate) and all applicable Federal regulations and other official issuances of the Department.

The following State officials are responsible for program administration and financial oversight (42 CFR § 457.40(c)):

Name: Drew Snyder	Position/Title: Executive Director, MS Div. of Medicaid
Name: Janis Bond	Position/Title: Deputy Administrator, Office of Enrollment
Name: Jennifer Wentworth	Position/Title: Deputy Administrator, Office of Finance
Name: Tara Clark	Position/Title: Deputy Executive Director

*Disclosure. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 09380707. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 160 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, write to: CMS, 7500 Security Blvd., Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

SPA: MS-20-0014-CHIP Approval Date: July 22, 2020 Effective Date: March 18, 2020

Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA); clarification of enrollee coverage provided in an emergency department.

Amendment #9 submitted: February 9, 2015 Implemented January 1, 2015
To reflect the change in operation of the separate CHIP health plan to two (2) contracted MCOs.

Amendment #10 submitted: January 9, 2018 Implemented: October 1, 2019
To include a Health Services Initiative offering expanded vision services to low-income children throughout the state.

Amendment #11 submitted: May 7, 2019 Implemented: July 1, 2018
To demonstrate compliance with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act (MHPAEA) final rule.

Amendment #12: MS SPA 19-0012-CHIP Effective Date: July 1, 2018
To include managed care requirements.

Amendment #13: MS SPA 20-0013-CHIP Submitted: January 31, 2020
To change the benchmark from the Mississippi State and School Employee's Health Insurance Plan Effective: November 1, 2019
to a Medicaid "like" State Plan

Amendment #14: MS SPA 20-0014-CHIP Disaster Relief Submitted: June 29, 2020
To implement temporary adjustments to enrollment and redetermination during Governor or federally-declared disasters and waive certain cost-sharing during the COVID-19 emergency Effective: March 18, 2020

1.4- TC Tribal Consultation (Section 2107(e)(1)(C)) Describe the consultation process that occurred specifically for the development and submission of this State Plan Amendment, when it occurred and who was involved.

The Tribe was notified on April 24, 2020, and agreed to an expedited submission. A follow-up notice was submitted on June 5, 2020, to emphasize that the eligibility flexibilities were not just limited to the current COVID-19 emergency but any Governor or federally-declared disaster. The Tribe had no comments.

1.4 Disaster Relief: Provide the effective (date costs begin to be incurred) and implementation (date services begin to be provided) dates for this SPA (42 CFR 457.65). A SPA may only have one effective date, but provisions within the SPA may have different implementation dates that must be after the effective date.

SPA # MS SPA 20-0014-CHIP

Purpose of SPA: To implement temporary adjustments to enrollment, redetermination, and cost sharing policies during Governor or federally-declared disasters.

Proposed effective date: 03/18/2020

Proposed implementation date:

- Proposed implementation dates:
 - Temporary suspension of timely processing of applications and renewals during the COVID-19 PHE: March 23, 2020
 - Waiver of copays for any COVID-19 testing-related services during the COVID-19 PHE: March 18, 2020

4.3 Methodology. Describe the methods of establishing and continuing eligibility and enrollment. The description should address the procedures for applying the eligibility standards, the organization and infrastructure responsible for making and reviewing eligibility determinations, and the process for enrollment of individuals receiving covered services, and whether the State uses the same application form for Medicaid and/or other public benefit programs. (Section 2102)(b)(2)) (42CFR, 457.350).

At State discretion, requirements related to timely processing of applications may be temporarily waived for CHIP applicants who reside and/or work within a State or Federally declared disaster.

At State discretion, requirements related to timely processing of renewals and/or deadlines for families to respond to renewal requests may be temporarily waived for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work within a State or Federally declared disaster area.

The State will temporarily delay acting on certain changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries whom the state determines are impacted by a State or Federally declared disaster area such that processing the change in a timely manner is not feasible. The state will continue to act on the changes in circumstance described in 42 CFR 457.342(a) cross-referencing 435.926(d).

8.2.3 Cost-Sharing.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, cost sharing shall be waived for any testing-related services directly related to the evaluation of a beneficiary for purposes of determining the need for in vitro diagnostic products described in 2103(c)(10) of the Social Security Act, including but not limited to X- rays and other forms of evaluation, regardless of setting type.