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State/Territory Name: Washington

State Plan Amendments (SPA) #: WA-20-0001

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Children and Adults Health Programs Group

July 15, 2020

MaryAnne Lindeblad
Medicaid Director
Health Care Authority
626 8th Avenue SE
Post Office Box 45502
Olympia, WA 98504-5502

Dear Ms. Lindeblad:

This letter is to inform you that your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan amendment (SPA), WA-20-0001, submitted on May 4, 2020, has been approved. This SPA has an effective date of March 1, 2020.

This amendment, as it applies to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), makes the following changes beginning March 18, 2020, unless otherwise noted, through the duration of the Federally-declared PHE:

- Waive requirements related to the timely processing of applications;
- Delay processing of renewals and extend deadlines for families to respond to renewal requests;
- Delay acting on changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries other than the required changes in circumstances described in 42 CFR 457.342(a) cross-referencing 42 CFR 435.926(d);
- Allow phone triage for dental services care coordination; and
- Waive collection of all cost sharing and suspend the premium lock-out policy, beginning May 1, 2020.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Janice Adams. She is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Her contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600, Mail Stop: RX-200
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 615-2541
E-mail: Janice.Adams@cms.hhs.gov

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If you have additional 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

cc: Courtney Miller, Director, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group
Jackie Glaze, Deputy Director, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

Amendment 20-0001: CHIP Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment

To implement provisions for temporary adjustments to enrollment and redetermination policies, cost sharing, premium requirements for children in families, changes in circumstances, reasonable opportunity period, waiting periods, and dental services during the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

Submitted date: April 29, 2020

Approved date:

Effective date: March 1, 2020

Implementation Dates:

- March 18, 2020 for all flexibilities except waiving premiums
- May 1, 2020, for waiving premiums

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.

Washington's tribes were notified via email, with hard copy letters to the Tribal Chairpersons, on April 20, 2020. Washington has a standard tribal mailing list of email and physical mailing addresses. A PDF documenting notification is attached.

~~A Tribal notice was sent on November 14, 2018. In consultation with the Tribes Washington State does not require tribal members to enroll in a managed care plan, but they may request enrollment at any time.~~

- 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)

State delay in processing applications: The requirements related to timely processing of applications may be temporarily waived for CHIP applicants during the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency. State delay in processing renewals and extension of renewals deadlines for families. The requirements related to timely processing of renewals and/or deadlines for families to respond to renewal requests may be temporarily waived for CHIP beneficiaries during the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

Extend the reasonable opportunity period: The state may provide for an extension of the reasonable opportunity period for non-citizens declaring to be in a satisfactory immigration status, if the non-citizen is making a good faith effort to resolve any inconsistencies or obtain any necessary documentation, or the agency is unable to complete the verification process within the 90-day reasonable opportunity period during the federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

Suspend processing of some changes in circumstance: The state will temporarily delay acting on certain changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries whom the state determines are impacted by a 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), which cross-reference 435.926(d).

4.4.4. the insurance provided under the State child health plan does not substitute for coverage under group health plans. (Section 2102(b)(3)(C)) (42CFR, 457.805)

Suspend waiting periods: The waiting period policy will be temporarily suspended for CHIP applicants during the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

See CS20 (MMDL)

6.2.1.1-DC Periodicity Schedule. The State has adopted the following periodicity schedule:

- State-developed Medicaid-specific
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- Other Nationally recognized periodicity schedule
- Other (description attached)

Dental services: D9992-care coordination allowed specifically for phone triage during the Federal COVID-19 pandemic. This is a temporary code and is not considered tele-dentistry.

*Not to be used for normal operations such as appointment scheduling (20-001).

8.2.1.

Premiums:

Tier 1 (210%-260%FPL): \$20/mo. per child; family maximum of \$40/mo.

Tier 2 (261%-312%FPL): \$30/mo. per child; family maximum of \$60/mo.

Non-payment of premiums may be temporarily forgiven/waived for CHIP applicants and/or existing beneficiaries during the [Federal](#) COVID-19 public health emergency period.

- 8.7.1.1. State has established a process that gives enrollees reasonable notice of and an opportunity to pay past due premiums, copayments, coinsurance, deductibles or similar fees prior to disenrollment. (42CFR 457.570(a))

Families are notified on each billing statement that failure to pay required premiums for 3 months may result in termination of coverage.

Waive premium lock-out policy (eligibility policy): Premium lock-out policy is temporarily suspended and coverage is available regardless of whether the family has paid their outstanding premium during the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency.

See CS21 (MMDL)

HCA does not anticipate significant budget impacts with changes made by the flexibilities granted during the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency SPA (20-0001).

[The budget below applies to SPA 19-0001.](#)

STATE: Washington	FFY Budget
Federal Fiscal Year	FFY2019
State's enhanced FMAP rate	88%
Benefit Costs	
Insurance payments	0
Managed care	\$ 110,553,505
<u>per member/per month rate</u>	\$ 145.32
Fee for Service	\$ 54,163,749
Total Benefit Costs	\$ 164,717,254
(Offsetting beneficiary cost sharing payments)	(\$ 14,197,181)

