



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

September 4, 2018

Ms. Judith Cash
Director, State Demonstrations Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-03-17
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
judith.cash@cms.hhs.gov

Re: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration (Project Number 11-W-00289/5)

Dear Ms. Cash:

The State of Iowa (State) Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to submit this letter indicating the State's revision to its Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) §1115 Waiver Demonstration (Project Number 11-W-002289/5) policy, effective July 1, 2018, to reinstate a 3-month retroactive coverage benefit for applicants who are residents of a nursing facility at the time of application and are otherwise Medicaid-eligible.

In 2017, consistent with recently passed legislation, the State requested to eliminate the provision of three months of retroactive Medicaid benefits and implement a policy whereby an applicant's Medicaid coverage became effective on the first day of the month in which the application for Medicaid was filed, as allowed under the Iowa Medicaid State Plan, effective for all new Medicaid applications filed on or after October 1, 2017. CMS approved this request, and the State implemented this policy for applications filed on or after November 1, 2017, with exceptions for pregnant women and during the 60-day period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy and infants under one year of age, who continue to receive the 3-month retroactive eligibility period.

Today, in accordance with legislation (Iowa Senate File 2418) passed by the Iowa Legislature during the 2018 session and consistent with Section 1902(a)(34) of the Social Security Act, the State respectfully submits this letter advising CMS of its intent to revise its policy to reinstate a 3-month retroactive Medicaid coverage benefit for applicants who are residents of a nursing facility at the time of application and are otherwise Medicaid-eligible. This policy is effective for new Medicaid applications filed on or after July 1, 2018. System changes in alignment with this policy revision will be made effective October 1, 2018. Applicants impacted by this policy change who have filed an application between July 1, 2018 and the effective date of the system changes may request, and be granted, retroactive coverage consistent with the revised policy.

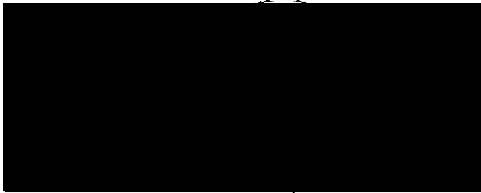
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The State conducted a 30-day public comment period, which closed on August 22, 2018, and held public hearings on August 6 and August 9 on this policy modification. The State received five (5) comments, which were overwhelmingly supportive of DHS's proposed policy change. Stakeholders were extremely pleased to learn of this revised policy as they feel it is consistent with traditional Medicaid policy and will provide valuable assistance to nursing facility residents and their families, as well as to nursing facilities.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and provide confirmation of Iowa's retroactive policy change. We look forward to continuing to work with our federal partners at CMS to promote the demonstration's goals and appreciate the opportunity to further protect this vulnerable population.

Please do not hesitate to contact my team if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Michael Randol
Medicaid Director

MR/js