



JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON, GOVERNOR • BRIAN KINKADE, DIRECTOR

MO HEALTHNET DIVISION

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June 25, 2014

Diane T. Gerrits
Director
Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers
Children and Adults Health Programs Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Gerrits:

On May 16, 2014, the Missouri legislature adjourned the 2014 session. The legislature did not approve the expansion of Medicaid to cover the new low-income adult group. This means that the Medicaid expansion will not be implemented by December 31, 2014, when the Gateway demonstration is currently scheduled to expire.

In the absence of an expansion of Medicaid, it is critical that CMS extend the Gateway to Better Health demonstration. Without Gateway, over 20,000 low-income residents of the St. Louis area will lose their health care coverage.

It is our understanding that, absent an extension, Medicaid rules require Gateway enrollees to be given 90 days advance notice that the program will terminate. This means notices of termination must be sent to over 20,000 Gateway enrollees on October 1, 2014, if the Gateway extension is not approved by that time.

By letter dated April 8, 2014, CMS confirmed that the pending Gateway extension request met the requirements for a complete extension application specified in 42 C.F.R. § 431.412(c). Unlike last year, this extension does not include any substantive changes to the demonstration. The only change is extending the expiration date from December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2016.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any questions about the Gateway to Better Health extension or if there is any information that we can provide to expedite the approval process.

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We also are notifying you that we interpret the Phase-Out plan timeline in STC 9 as not applying when an extension request is pending, and we intend to delay the posting and submission of the Phase-Out plan until September 2014 to avoid unnecessarily alarming members that their benefits may be ending. Specifically, the State plans to post the Phase-Out plan for public comment by September 30, 2014, if the Gateway extension has not been approved by that time. After the requisite 30-day public comment period, the State will submit the plan to CMS. We believe a later posting of this information will give the public sufficient time to respond and provide CMS sufficient time to review, without creating unnecessary confusion and concern among Gateway enrollees. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any questions or concerns about these planned activities.

Sincerely,



Joseph Parks, M.D.
Director

JP:tb

cc: Terri Fraser
James G. Scott