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***CMCS Informational Bulletin***

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**SUBJECT: Promoting Access in Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care: Strategies for Ensuring Provider Network Adequacy and Service Availability**

CMS believes that states are in the best position to develop meaningful and appropriate network adequacy and service availability standards that reflect the scope of their programs, the populations served, and the unique demographics and characteristics of each state. To assist states in developing their network adequacy and service availability standards, CMS formed a working group of states to discuss common access challenges and goals, as well as to create a forum for states to present their successful techniques for establishing and monitoring network adequacy in their programs. The product of this group's efforts is a compilation of effective and promising network adequacy and service availability strategies and analysis techniques, as well as valuable data sources that states are using to develop and assess the availability of providers and services in their states. [Promoting Access in Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care: A Toolkit for Ensuring Provider Network Adequacy and Service Availability](#) provides detailed descriptions of state access strategies and techniques that states can easily replicate, or states can customize the strategies and techniques to produce measures that address unique access challenges in their Medicaid and CHIP programs.

The Toolkit is not intended to be an exhaustive list of approaches; it describes various standards and approaches that may offer states new and reasonable ways to promote access to care. CMS understands that state Medicaid and CHIP agencies play a crucial role in setting goals, standards, and incentives to promote timely access, as well as work with managed care plans, providers, consumers, and other stakeholders to address barriers to care. The Toolkit is intended to provide guidance and resources to help states fulfill these important responsibilities.

**Technical Assistance**

CMS remains committed to providing technical assistance to states and other stakeholders in understanding the Medicaid managed care regulatory provisions. If you have questions or would like to request technical assistance related to the guidance in this informational bulletin, please send an email to [ManagedCareRule@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ManagedCareRule@cms.hhs.gov). We look forward to continuing our partnership to deliver on our shared goals of providing high quality, sustainable healthcare to those who need it most.