

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-25-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



State Demonstrations Group

November 7, 2022

Lynnette R. Rhodes
Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 36th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3159

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

This letter is to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving the state's July 20, 2022 request to terminate Georgia's section 1115 demonstration, titled "Georgia Postpartum Extension" (Project Number 11-W-00370/4). This demonstration will expire October 31, 2022.

On December 11, 2020, Georgia submitted a section 1115 demonstration request which sought to extend postpartum services from 60 days to six months or 180 days. The Georgia Postpartum Extension section 1115 demonstration was approved on April 16, 2021. The demonstration enabled the state to test the effects of extending full Medicaid state plan benefits to postpartum women with incomes up to 220 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) from 60 days to six months or 180 days. Through the approval, the state also provided continuous eligibility for women during the postpartum period, ensuring continuity of coverage, and Resource Mothers Outreach services, which included peer services in coordination with a nurse case manager. This demonstration aimed to increase and strengthen overall coverage and improve the health of certain mothers in Georgia, as well as reduce the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity in the state by addressing continuity of care for women postpartum.

During the first year of the demonstration, approximately 44 percent of the women enrolled in the demonstration received at least one service in the period between 61 days and 180 days after the end of the pregnancy.¹ Beneficiaries received services which included, but were not limited to, physical and dental care, behavioral health care, examinations and care for lactating mothers, routine postpartum follow-up and emergency room care. The state is required to conduct an evaluation to assess the effects of the demonstration on beneficiaries and the state's Medicaid program, in alignment with the demonstration goals. The evaluation component, which must cover the entire duration that the demonstration remained in effect, is anticipated to be submitted along with the Close-Out Report due to CMS within 120 calendar days after the expiration of the demonstration.²

¹ Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) Department of Health Policy and Management (HPM). June 29, 2022. Georgia Postpartum Extension Section 1115 Demonstration Annual Monitoring Report Demonstration Year 1 (April 16, 2021 – March 31, 2022); under review with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

² To account for data completeness and lag, if needed, the state may submit the evaluation component separately from the Close-Out Report, with the due date to be collaboratively determined between the state and CMS, but no later than 18 months after the end of the demonstration on October 31, 2022.

On August 17, 2022 the state submitted a state plan amendment (SPA) to extend postpartum services to a full twelve (12) months, under the state plan, as permitted in section 9812 of the American Rescue Plan Act. CMS approved the state's request on October 26, 2022 and, with the state plan approval, the section 1115 demonstration authority is no longer needed. According to special terms and conditions (STCs) 26 and 35 of the Georgia Postpartum Extension, Georgia is required to submit a Close-Out Report and a Summative Evaluation Report, respectively. CMS will continue to work with Georgia to finalize these reports.

If you have any questions, please contact your project officer, Ms. Wanda Boone-Massey. Ms. Boone-Massey can be reached at Wanda.Boone-Massey@cms.hhs.gov. Thank you for all your work on this demonstration.

Sincerely,

Heather Ross
Acting Director
Division of Eligibility and Coverage
Demonstrations

Enclosure

cc: Etta Hawkins, State Monitoring Lead, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group