



July 15, 2021

Teresa DeCaro, Acting Director
State Demonstrations Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Mail Stop: S2-26-16
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

RE: TennCare Demonstration, Amendment 35

Dear Ms. DeCaro,

The purpose of this letter is to withdraw proposed Amendment 35 to the TennCare demonstration. Amendment 35 proposed to cover short-term substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services in facilities that meet the definition of an institution for mental diseases (IMD). The purpose of this proposed amendment was to strengthen the state's ability to provide medically necessary care for individuals with SUDs in the settings most appropriate to their needs.

In the months since the state submitted Amendment 35, Congress has created new authorities for states to cover SUD treatment services for Medicaid beneficiaries in IMDs through the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act. Accordingly, the state is withdrawing its request to amend the TennCare demonstration.

We appreciate CMS's work on this amendment, and we encourage CMS to continue to work with states to explore ways to strengthen the continuum of care for individuals with SUD treatment needs.

If you have any questions about this request or need additional information, please contact Aaron Butler at 615.507.6448, or aaron.c.butler@tn.gov. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Stephen Smith
Director, Division of TennCare

cc: April Wiley, State Demonstrations Group
Tandra Hodges, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group
Lorraine Nawara, State Demonstrations Group