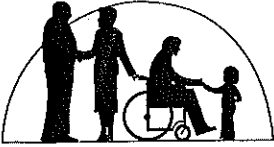


Public Notice Documents



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

April 1, 2010

Dear Tribal Chairs:

I am writing to let you know that the Department of Human Services plans to submit a request to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a renewal of the State's §1115 Prepaid Medical Assistance Project Plus (PMAP+) waiver. Under the waiver, the State has had the authority to provide Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare services to people who would not otherwise have been eligible, and to provide those services through managed care organizations (also called MCOs or HMOs). Federal authority for the current waiver ends on June 30, 2011, and the renewal request must be submitted a year in advance.

A copy of the special terms and conditions for the current PMAP+ waiver can be found on the DHS web site at www.dhs.state.mn.us/healthcare/waivers. The extension request will be modeled after the current PMAP+ waiver, and will be posted on the same web page.

The extension of a second federal waiver entitled the Minnesota Family Planning Program (MFPP) §1115 waiver is also under review. Under the MFPP waiver, the State has had the authority to expand Medicaid eligibility for family planning services to people who would not otherwise have been eligible. Federal authority for the MFPP §1115 waiver also ends June 30, 2011.

A copy of the special terms and conditions for the current MFPP waiver can be found on the DHS web site at www.dhs.state.mn.us/healthcare/waivers. A provision in the newly enacted federal health care reform law gives states the option to expand Medicaid eligibility for family planning services as a Medicaid state plan option without obtaining a federal waiver. With the MFPP waiver up for renewal, the State will analyze this option as a possible alternative to extending federal authority under a waiver.

Because some components of each of these waivers may affect members of your tribe, I would appreciate receiving any comments you may have. There will be an opportunity for comment at the quarterly tribal health directors' meeting on May 12th. In addition, written comments may be submitted through June 30, although they will be most useful if we receive them by mid-June.

Tribal Chairs
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If you have any questions about these waiver renewals, you may contact Jan Kooistra [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or Kathleen Vanderwall [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], who are members of my staff. Written comments may be sent to:

Jan Kooistra
Minnesota Department of Human Services
PO Box 64983
St. Paul, MN 55164-0983

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Ann Berg
Deputy Medicaid Director

cc: Health Directors

Department of Human Services

Health Care Administration

Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare Programs

Request for Comments on Extension of Federal Prepaid Medical Assistance Plus (PMAP+) §1115 Waiver

For over twenty years, Minnesota's Medicaid program (Medical Assistance or MA) has administered a waiver under section 1115 of the Social Security Act, now named the "Minnesota Prepaid Medical Assistance Project Plus" or "PMAP+ Waiver," allowing for the purchase of coverage from managed care organizations on a prepaid capitated basis.

In the early-1990s a series of health care reform amendments to the PMAP+ Waiver allowed for the statewide expansion of PMAP, simplified certain MA eligibility requirements, and incorporated MinnesotaCare coverage for pregnant women and children, and later MinnesotaCare parents, into Minnesota's Medicaid Program.

With passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and subsequent promulgation of related regulations in 2002, most aspects of Minnesota's pre-paid MA managed health care programs can now operate under the MA State Plan. The majority of MA recipients receiving managed care under the authority of the PMAP+ Waiver moved to state plan authority for managed care effective July 2005. In June 2005 Minnesota moved all PMAP+ seniors to Minnesota Senior Care (MSC) under the authority of a new waiver, the MSC §1915(b) waiver. Nevertheless, the PMAP+ Waiver continues to support several important components of the State's programs, including but not limited to providing Medical Assistance services with federal financial participation to populations that would not otherwise be eligible and mandatory enrollment of certain MA populations in managed care.

The PMAP+ Waiver will expire June 30, 2011. To assure the continuation of the PMAP+ project, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) intends to submit a three-year extension request for the PMAP+ Waiver to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in June 2010 under the terms requested in the September 30, 2009 waiver amendment package and subsequent correspondence, which is still pending with CMS.

DHS is announcing a 30-day comment period on the draft PMAP+ Waiver Extension Request to be submitted to CMS. To request a copy of the draft PMAP+ Waiver Extension Request, please contact Chris Wasieleski at (651) 431-2182. A copy of the draft PMAP+ Waiver Extension Request can also be found at www.dhs.state.mn.us/healthcare/waivers.

Written comments may be submitted to Jan Kooistra at the address below. Comments must be received by Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Jan Kooistra

Department of Human Services

PO Box 64983

St. Paul, MN 55164-0983

Telephone: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]