

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Center for Medicaid and State Operations

January 14, 2010

Ms. Lesley Cummings
Executive Director
California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board
P.O. Box 2769
Sacramento, CA 95812-2769

Dear Ms. Cummings:

This is to inform you that the title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State plan amendment (SPA) submitted April 2, 2009, with additional information submitted on October 22, 2009, and January 11, 2010, has been approved.

This amendment establishes a dental benefit cap (effective February 1, 2009); modifies vision benefits (effective February 1, 2009); and increases premiums (effective February 1, 2009). Additionally, this SPA establishes an infrastructure for a waiting list and enrollment cap (effective January 31, 2009); eliminates the AIM program's 6-month residency requirement (effective January 6, 2009); and modifies notification procedures related to the premium grace period (effective February 1, 2009).

As we previously discussed with you, this current SPA does not satisfy the statutory requirements of section 501(b) of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). However, it is our understanding that the State will be working through this upcoming legislative session to ensure that the dental benefits provided through the State plan meet the statutory requirements of section 501(b) of CHIPRA. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services continues to be available, should you need technical assistance.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Ticia Jones. She is available to answer questions concerning this amendment. Ms. Jones' contact information is as follows:

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E-mail: Ticia.Jones@cms.hhs.gov

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Ms. Jones and to Ms. Gloria Nagle, Associate Regional Administrator in our San Francisco Regional Office. Ms. Nagle's address is:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services – Region IX
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health
90 7th Street, #5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, California 94103-6706

If you have additional questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Wachino, Director, Family and Children's Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid and State Operations at (410) 786-5647.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Mann
Director

cc: CMS Region IX, San Francisco