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State/Territory Name: Georgia

State Plan Amendments (SPA) #: GA-20-0029

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Children and Adults Health Programs Group

May 7, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan amendment (SPA) GA-20-0029, submitted on April 10, 2020, has been approved. This amendment provides temporary adjustments to the state's enrollment and redetermination policies and cost sharing requirements in response to disaster events. This amendment has an effective date of March 1, 2020.

This amendment, as it applies to the COVID-19 public health emergency, makes the following changes effective March 1, 2020 through the duration of the emergency declaration, unless otherwise noted below:

- Waive requirements related to timely processing of applications;
- Waive requirements related to timely processing of renewals;
- Delay acting on changes in circumstances affecting eligibility, other than changes related to residency, death, voluntary termination of coverage, erroneous eligibility determinations, and becoming eligible for Medicaid;
- Waive all premiums and premium balances;
- Waive copayments for any in vitro diagnostic product described in section 2103(c)(10) of the Social Security Act and any other COVID-19 testing-related services, effective March 18, 2020; and
- Waive copayments for all other services, effective May 1, 2020.

In the event of a future disaster, this SPA provides Georgia with the authority to implement the approved, temporary policy adjustments by simply notifying CMS of its intent, the effective date and duration of the provision, and a list of applicable Governor or federally-declared disaster or emergency areas. While the state must provide notice to CMS, this option provides an administratively streamlined pathway for the state to effectively respond to an evolving disaster event.

Your title XXI project officer is Jack Mirabella. They are available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Their contact information is as follows:

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850
Telephone: (410) 786-0435
E-mail: holly.mirabella@cms.hhs.gov

If you have any questions, please contact Meg Barry, Acting Director, Division of State Coverage Programs, at (410) 786-1536. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

/signed Amy Lutzky/

Amy Lutzky
Acting Deputy Director

Georgia CHIP Disaster Relief State Plan Amendment

States wishing to utilize this option under their CHIP State plan will want to complete the following sections of the CHIP State plan template:

- 1.4 Provide the effective (date costs begin to be incurred) and implementation (date services begin to be provided) dates for this SPA (42 CFR 457.65). A SPA may only have one effective date, but provisions within the SPA may have different implementation dates that must be after the effective date.

SPA # 20-0029

Purpose of SPA: To enact various eligibility changes, application, and cost-sharing for children enrolled in Georgia's CHIP Program (known as PeachCare for Kids) during the COVID emergency in order to help maintain coverage.

Proposed effective date: March 1, 2020

Proposed implementation dates:

- *Temporary suspension of timely processing of applications: March 1, 2020*
- *Temporary suspension of timely processing of renewals: March 1, 2020*
- *Temporary suspension of acting on certain changes in circumstance: March 1, 2020*
- *Waiving premiums: March 1, 2020*
- *Waiving copays for any in vitro diagnostic product described in section 2103(c)(10) of the Social Security Act and any other COVID-19 testing-related services: March 18, 2020*
- *Waiving all other copays: May 1, 2020*

4.3 Methodology.

Temporary suspension of timely processing of applications

At State discretion, requirements related to timely processing of applications may be temporarily waived for CHIP applicants who reside and/or work in a State or Federally declared disaster area.

Temporary suspension of timely processing of renewals

At State discretion, requirements related to timely processing of renewals and/or deadlines for families to respond to renewal requests may be temporarily waived for CHIP beneficiaries who reside and/or work in a State or Federally declared disaster area.

Temporary suspension of acting on certain changes in circumstance

The State will temporarily delay acting on certain changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries whom the state determines are impacted by a State or Federally declared disaster such that processing the change in a timely manner is not feasible. The state will

continue to act on changes in circumstance related to residency, death, voluntary termination of coverage, erroneous eligibility determinations, and becoming eligible for Medicaid.

- 8.2. Describe the amount of cost-sharing, any sliding scale based on income, the group or groups of enrollees that may be subject to the charge by age and income (if applicable) and the service for which the charge is imposed or time period for the charge, as appropriate (Section 2103(e)(1)(A)) (42CFR 457.505(a), 457.510(b) &(c), 457.515(a)&(c)).

8.2.1. Premiums:

At State discretion, premiums may be waived for CHIP applicants and/or beneficiaries who meet income and other eligibility requirements and who reside and/or work in State or Federally declared disaster areas for a specified period of time.

8.2.3 Copays

At State discretion, cost sharing may be temporarily waived for CHIP applicants and/or existing beneficiaries who reside and/or work in a State or Federally declared disaster area.

- 8.7 Provide a description of the consequences for an enrollee or applicant who does not pay a charge (42CFR 457.570 and 457.505(c)).

Exception to Disenrollment for Failure to Pay Premiums

At State discretion, premiums will be waived, and CHIP coverage will be available regardless of whether the family has paid their outstanding premium for existing beneficiaries and new applicants who reside and/or work in a State or Federally declared disaster area.

- 9.10 Provide a 1-year projected budget (Section 2107(d)) (42CFR 457.140). If the State's proposed disaster event provisions pose a significant budget impact, please include an updated budget. If the proposed changes do not make any notable impact to the budget, please include a statement with that assumption.

The estimated budget impact in FY2020 and FY2021 of these changes is not yet known. CMS will follow up with Georgia for additional information.