



**Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification**

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February 2, 2011

Ms. Katherine Buckley-Patton  
Director  
Healthy Montana Kids Plan  
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services  
P.O. Box 202951  
Helena, MT 59620-2951

Dear Ms. Buckley-Patton:

Your eighth title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State plan amendment (SPA) submitted on August 19, 2010, with revised State plan pages and additional information submitted on December 21, 2010 has been approved. This SPA includes several changes that Montana has made to its title XXI program to simplify eligibility and to improve benefits. These provisions have multiple effective dates, as follows:

- (1) reimbursement of FQHCs and RHCs using a PPS methodology (effective October 1, 2009),
- (2) removal of some annual limits for inpatient and outpatient medical, mental health, and substance use disorder benefits (effective July 1, 2010),
- (3) coverage for lawfully residing children in the United States (effective August 1, 2010),
- (4) additional exceptions to the three month insurance delay period for children (effective October 1, 2010),
- (5) an increase in the basic dental benefit package to match a State employee benchmark (effective October 1, 2010),
- (6) addition of emergency ambulance services as a covered benefit and removal of cochlear implants and associated components as covered benefits (effective October 1, 2010),
- (7) programmatic updates related to tribal consultation, the schedule of mailings, and the appeals process (effective October 1, 2010); and
- (8) provision of presumptive eligibility (effective January 1, 2011).

We appreciate Montana taking actions to come into compliance with the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. We are encouraged by these efforts, and remain committed to providing technical assistance as necessary while you work toward compliance with future guidance.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is developing regulations to implement the CHIPRA requirements. When final regulations are published in the *Federal Register*, States will be required to submit SPAs illustrating compliance with the new regulations. SPAs approved prior to

Page 2 – Ms. Katherine Buckley-Patton

the issuance of the final regulations may need to be revised and resubmitted for review and approval to ensure the State's CHIP program complies with the final published regulations.

Your title XXI project officer is Mr. Robert Nelb. He is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Mr. Nelb's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification  
Mail Stop S2-01-16  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Telephone: (410) 786-1055  
Facsimile: (410) 786-8534  
E-mail: [robert.nelb@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:robert.nelb@cms.hhs.gov)

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Mr. Nelb and to Mr. Richard Allen, Associate Regional Administrator in our Denver Regional Office. Mr. Allen's address is:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health  
Colorado State Bank Building  
1600 Broadway, Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202-4367

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

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy Mann  
Director

cc: Mr. Richard Allen, Associate Regional Administrator, Region VIII  
Ms. Diana Maiden, Regional CHIP Coordinator