

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, CHIP and Survey & Certification

July 16, 2010

Ms. Judith Arnold
Director
Division of Coverage and Enrollment
Office of Health Insurance Programs
State of New York Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York, 12237-0004

Dear Ms. Arnold:

Your fifteenth title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State plan amendment (SPA) submitted on March 29, 2010, with revised State plan pages and additional information submitted on June 23 and June 28, 2010, has been approved. This amendment has a retroactive effective date of April 1, 2009.

This SPA includes changes that New York has made to its title XXI program during the past State fiscal year, April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, in order to demonstrate compliance with sections 502, 503, and 504 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). Specifically, these changes include the following: (1) removal of coverage limits for inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse services in order to meet the requirements for mental health parity; (2) reimbursement of federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs) using a prospective payment system (PPS) methodology; and (3) clarification regarding implementation of the premium grace period. In addition, the SPA makes minor programmatic updates regarding the application form and outreach activities.

In accordance with section 503 of CHIPRA, New York is implementing its PPS reimbursement methodology for FQHCs and RHCs retroactive to October 1, 2009.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Kathy Cuneo. She is available to answer questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Ms. Cuneo's contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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Mail Stop S2-01-16
7500 Security Boulevard
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Page 2 – Ms. Judith Arnold

Facsimile: (410) 786-5943
E-mail: kathleen.cuneo@cms.hhs.gov

Official communications regarding program matters should be sent simultaneously to Ms. Cuneo and to Ms. Sue Kelly, Associate Regional Administrator in our New York Regional Office. Ms. Kelly's address is:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Division of Medicaid and Children's Health
26 Federal Plaza, Room 37-11
New York, NY 10278-0063

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: Sue Kelly, ARA, CMS Region II, New York