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CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: February 22, 2013

FROM: Cindy Mann, Director
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SUBJECT: **Medicaid Moving Forward and Essential Health Benefits**

Yesterday the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released “Medicaid Moving Forward”, a report that identifies recent developments, opportunities available to states today, and upcoming activity that will help states improve and modernize their Medicaid programs. Sections on long term services and supports, new and improved business processes, and Medicaid program integrity will provide valuable tools and insights to states as they continue to build a Medicaid program that gives beneficiaries access to quality, affordable care. To view the report, please visit <http://www.medicaid.gov/State-Resource-Center/Events-and-Announcements/Events-and-Announcements.html>

Earlier this week, CMS also released a final rule on Essential Health Benefits. The rule outlines health insurance issuer standards for a core package of benefits, called essential health benefits, that health insurance issuers must cover both inside and outside the Health Insurance Marketplace. Through its standards for essential health benefits, the final rule released today also expands coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment, for millions of Americans. For more information about this rule, please visit <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/factsheets/ehb-2-20-2013.html>, or view the rule at <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx>