

Notice of Application for Demonstration Authority

Notice is hereby given that the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) intends to apply for authority under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to enroll certain individuals eligible for coverage under Title XIX of the Social Security Act in qualified health plans offered on the federally facilitated New Hampshire Health Insurance Marketplace.

Summary of Demonstration

On March 27, 2014, Governor Maggie Hassan signed into law Senate Bill 413, an Act relative to health insurance coverage (the "Act"), (2014 NH Laws Chap. 3) establishing the New Hampshire Health Protection Program to expand health coverage in New Hampshire for adults with incomes up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The New Hampshire Health Protection Program includes several components: (1) a mandatory Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPP) for individuals with access to cost-effective employer-sponsored insurance; (2) a bridge program to cover the new adult group in Medicaid managed care plans through December 31, 2015; and (3) a mandatory individual qualified health plan (QHP) premium assistance program beginning on January 1, 2016. Coverage for the new adult group became effective on August 15, 2014. This Demonstration is intended to implement the mandatory QHP premium assistance program established in the Act.

Under the Demonstration, the State will implement a mandatory premium assistance program ("Premium Assistance Program" or "Program") through which the State will purchase from insurance carriers QHPs that have been certified for sale in the individual market on the federally facilitated New Hampshire Health Insurance Marketplace. Individuals eligible for the Program will include those covered under Title XIX of the Social Security Act who are either (1) childless adults between the ages of 19 and 65 with incomes at or below 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) who are neither enrolled in (or eligible for) Medicare nor incarcerated or (2) parents between the ages of 19 and 65 with incomes between 38% (for non-working parents) or 47% (for working parents) and 133% FPL who are neither enrolled in (or eligible for) Medicare nor incarcerated (collectively "QHP Premium Assistance beneficiaries"). Premium Assistance Program beneficiaries will receive the Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) through a QHP that they select and will have cost-sharing obligations consistent with Medicaid cost-sharing requirements.

The Demonstration will further the objectives of Title XIX by promoting continuity of coverage for individuals as they transition across different sources of coverage ensuring consistent access to providers, rationalizing provider reimbursement, and enhancing integration and efficiency of public and private coverage in New Hampshire. Ultimately, the Demonstration will provide truly integrated coverage for low-income New Hampshire residents regardless of their income or source of coverage.

Additionally, by adding up to an estimated 45,000 persons to the Marketplace, the Program may attract additional QHP carriers creating a more competitive market, which will benefit all individuals purchasing coverage on the Marketplace.

The Demonstration will be statewide and will operate during calendar year 2016. The State anticipates that approximately 45,000 individuals will be eligible for the Demonstration. The State expects that, over the life of the Demonstration, covering New Hampshire Health Protection Program beneficiaries will be comparable to what the costs would have been for covering the same expansion group through Medicaid Care Management.

Hypotheses To Be Evaluated Through Demonstration

The Demonstration will evaluate the following questions:

- What are the effects of the QHP premium assistance plan on member quality of care?
- What are the effects of the QHP premium assistance plan on member access to care?
- What are the effects of the QHP premium assistance plan on member insurance coverage (uptake) and coverage gaps and loss of coverage?
- What are the effects of the QHP premium assistance plan on the costs of providing care?
- What are the effects of the QHP premium assistance plan copayments on members?

Waivers Requested

The State will request the following waivers to operate the Demonstration:

- § 1902(a)(17): To permit the State to provide different delivery systems for different populations of Medicaid beneficiaries.
- § 1902(a)(17): To permit the State to vary cost sharing requirements for individuals in the Demonstration with incomes above 100% FPL from cost sharing to which they would otherwise be subject under the State Plan.
- § 1902(a)(23): To make premium assistance for QHPs in the Marketplace mandatory for QHP Premium Assistance beneficiaries and to permit the State to limit beneficiaries' freedom of choice among providers to the providers participating in the network of the QHP Premium Assistance beneficiary's QHP.
- § 1902(a)(34): To permit the State to provide coverage as of the application date.

The State continues to evaluate whether it will request other waivers.

Opportunity for Public Input

The complete version of the current draft of the Demonstration application is available for public review at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/pap-1115-waiver/index.htm>. The Demonstration application may also be viewed from 8 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday at:

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid Business and Policy
Legal and Policy Unit
129 Pleasant Street-Thayer Building
Concord, NH 03301-3857

Public comments may be submitted until midnight on October 31, 2014. Comments may be submitted by email to PAP1115Waiver@dhhs.state.nh.us or by regular mail to Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicaid Business and Policy, Legal and Policy Unit, 129 Pleasant Street-Thayer Building, Concord, NH 03301-3857. Comments should be addressed to Jeffrey A. Meyers, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, NH Department of Health and Human Services.

To view comments that others have submitted, please visit <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/pap-1115-waiver/index.htm>. Comments may also be viewed from 8 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday at:

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Office of Medicaid Business and Policy
Legal and Policy Unit
129 Pleasant Street-Thayer Building
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The State will host two public hearings during the public comment period.

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

6:30-8:30 PM

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

To attend by webinar:

<https://pcgus.webex.com/pcgus/j.php?MTID=m033af3335f479e13d8da20c7f52e4447>

Meeting number: 763 259 638

Meeting password: nhdhhs

To join by phone:

1-877-668-4493 Access code: 763 259 638

Monday, October 20, 2014

1:00-3:00 PM

Medical Care Advisory Committee

New Hampshire Hospital Association
125 Airport Road
Concord, NH 03301

To attend by webinar:

<https://pcgus.webex.com/pcgus/j.php?MTID=m5b940af84f4d96ba72abe2b9e9c8ca0a>

Meeting number: 768 829 221

Meeting password: nhdhhs

To join by phone:

1-877-668-4493 Access code: 768 829 221