

For publication on Sunday, September 4, 2016

On or before 9/30/16, the Montana Department of Public Health Human Services (DPHHS) will submit the Inpatient Hospital Services Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to update the Hospital Tax methodology, effective 1/1/17.

In 2016, Montana expanded Medicaid by enacting the Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Program. The HELP Program provides coverage through a contract with a Third Party Administrator (TPA). The TPA administers the delivery and payment for healthcare services for many of the newly eligible adults. Other HELP expansion participants receive coverage through the Medicaid provider network.

The current Hospital Tax methodology does not include the use of the claims data for the newly expanded Medicaid population. The proposed amendment will revise the database sources used to calculate the Hospital Reimbursement Adjustor (HRA) and add the HELP program data, including the TPA paid claims data, to the HRA methodology. The estimated fiscal impact is \$115 million.

Public comments on the Inpatient Hospital SPA must be submitted **by 9/16/16**, to Valerie St. Clair, vstclair@mt.gov, or PO Box 202951, Helena, MT 59620-2951.

On or before 12/31/16, DPHHS will submit a 3-year Plan First Section 1115 Medicaid Family Planning Waiver Renewal for approval to CMS with a proposed effective date of 1/1/18. The waiver renewal makes no substantial changes. The current waiver includes about 2,000 women, ages 19-44, able to become pregnant but not presently pregnant, who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid, and earning a household income up to 211% of the federal poverty level. The waiver goals are to decrease the number of births paid for by Medicaid, and improve health outcomes for members. Services are limited to waiver covered family planning services and supplies. The estimated total annual fiscal benefit impact is \$1.01 million.

Public comments on the Family Planning Waiver Renewal must be submitted **by 11/2/16**, to Elizabeth LeLacheur, Program Officer, at (406) 444-6002, elacheur@mt.gov, or PO Box 202951, Helena MT 59620. The proposed changes, waiver benefit description, eligibility and program description, copayment requirements, waiver evaluation design with goals/objectives, healthcare delivery system, public meeting details, and public notice schedule are located on the Department website at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/planfirst>. Two public meetings will be held regarding the renewal: 1) October 4, 2016, 12:30-1:30 PM by WebEx, or in person at the Cogswell Building, Room C209, 1400 Broadway, Helena, MT; and 2) October 5, 2016, 12:30-1:30 PM by WebEx, or in person at the conference room at the Yellowstone County Office of Public Assistance, 111 N 31st St., Billings, Montana.