



Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper,
Director

Date: November 18, 2015
To: Montana Health Coalition
From: Mary E. Dalton, State Medicaid Director *Mary*
Subject: Section 1115 Basic Medicaid Waiver Amendment

On November 15, 2015, DPHHS submitted a Section 1115 Basic Medicaid Waiver Amendment for approval to CMS with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2016. Two of the populations currently served under the Basic Waiver are covered elsewhere through Medicaid Expansion and no longer require coverage under this vehicle.

This amendment will remove: 1) able-bodied adults; and 2) individuals under age 65 with Severe Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) who are not covered by or eligible for Medicare and who are between 0-138% of the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) income level.

The Basic Waiver will cover individuals age 18 or older, with SDMI who qualify for or are enrolled in the state-financed Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP) or the Basic Medicaid waiver, but are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits, and either: 1) have income 0-138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare; or 2) have income 139-150% of the FPL regardless of Medicare status. The MHSP Waiver enrollment cap will be reduced from 6,000 to 3,000.

The amendment aligns the Basic Medicaid benefit package with the Standard Medicaid benefit package. Basic Medicaid previously did not cover or had very limited coverage of audiology, dental and denturist, durable medical equipment (DME), eyeglasses, optometry and ophthalmology for routine eye exams, personal care services, and hearing aids. This alignment eliminates the need for the Basic Medicaid emergency services or the Essential for Employment program.

The amendment adopts a 12-month continuous eligibility period for all non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). Overall, this amendment will re-finance state funds by utilizing federal funds.

Although the Amendment has been submitted, DPHHS will take and consider comment on this proposal. We will amend our proposal as needed based on this comment.

A public meeting will be held for public comments regarding the amendment on December 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m., at 1400 Broadway, Room C205, Helena, Montana 59601. Members of the public can also attend via webinar by going to the DPHHS website at:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/BasicMedicaid/BasicMedicaid1115Waiver>.

To join the audio portion of the webinar, call 1-877-668-4490, access code 806 629 179.

The current waiver, draft waiver application, and public notice details are also located on the DPHHS website.

Public comments on the Basic Medicaid Waiver Amendment may be submitted until midnight on **December 11, 2015**, by e-mail to rcorbett@mt.gov or by regular mail to: The Department of Public Health and Human Services, Attn: Rebecca Corbett, PO Box 202951, Helena, MT 59620-2951.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Medicaid program.