



BRAD LITTLE – Governor
DAVE JEPPESEN – Director

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

MATT WIMMER - Administrator
DIVISION OF MEDICAID
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0009
PHONE: (208) 334-5747
FAX: (208) 364-1811

March 26, 2019

Dear Tribal Representative:

In accordance with section 1902(a)(73)(A) of the Social Security Act regarding the solicitation of advice prior to the submission of any Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) or 1915(b) waiver amendment likely to have a direct effect on Indians, Indian Health Programs, or Urban Indian Organizations, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (Idaho Medicaid) seeks your advice on the following matter.

Purpose

This State Plan Amendment (SPA) modifies the existing Healthy Connections enrollment process to align with the rule changes passed during the 2019 session of the Idaho Legislature and the statute changes in Section 56-265(5), Idaho Code made during the 2017 session of the Idaho Legislature, for the development of a value-based payment model approach to providing Medicaid services to participants.

This SPA will support the procedural requirements needed to implement a fixed participant enrollment process to support the value-based model through the existing Healthy Connections Program. The existing Healthy Connections enrollment process allows participants to change their Primary Care Provider (PCP) any time they choose.

The new “fixed enrollment process”, designates a set period of time where participants are free to change their PCP at will. Once this time period ends, participants will not be able to change their PCP at will until the next open enrollment period the following year. There are provisions that allow PCP changes outside of the open enrollment period, for cause, which have been added to meet the requirements of federal law. These changes encourage a long-term provider-patient relationship through which a medical home is established. This ensures the participant is receiving a consistent source of care, provides for better patient outcomes, and supports the value-based model of care, as directed by the legislature.

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Proposed Effective Date

The Department intends to submit this State Plan Amendment to CMS on or before September 30, 2019 with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2019.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Tribal Health Programs/Urban Indian Organizations (ITU)

In compliance with federal law, Tribal members residing in Idaho have the option to be exempt from the Healthy Connections Program and may select the Primary Care Physician of their choice. We encourage tribal members and Tribal Health Programs to utilize this opportunity to assist us in supporting long term provider-patient relationships and positive health outcomes, by encouraging them to enroll in Healthy Connections. The Department is dedicated to working in a collaborative effort with the Tribes to address any concerns or questions you may have regarding this SPA.

Comments, Input, and Tribal Concerns

Idaho Medicaid would appreciate any input or concerns that Tribal Representatives wish to share regarding this change. In order to allow for a timely submission to CMS, please submit any comments regarding the SPA **prior to May 26, 2019** via email to:

BMCPolicyPubliccomment@dhw.idaho.gov

Idaho Medicaid's development of this policy change will be shared in more detail and reviewed as part of the Policy Update at the next quarterly Tribal meeting, currently scheduled for May 2019.

Sincerely,



MATT WIMMER
Administrator

MW/cb