



June 27, 2014

Susan Mosier, MD
Medicaid Director
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
900 SW Jackson Avenue Suite 900
Topeka, KS 666612

Dear Dr. Mosier:

As you know, as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has worked with states on the implementation of changes to Medicaid and CHIP eligibility and enrollment rules and procedures, we identified seven key focus areas for close attention in fulfilling these requirements. Approaching the start of the first open enrollment period, we asked states that were anticipating not being in full compliance with the rules and procedures relating to these core areas, often due to delays in systems functionality, to develop mitigation plans. These were submitted to and approved by CMS. Over time, mitigations adopted by states have been retired as systems functionality and operational capabilities came on line, and some new mitigations have been needed to address newly identified issues (such as when a new systems functionality is not performing adequately or workload volume has necessitated workarounds).

As a reminder, the seven critical success factors are:

- Ability to accept a single, streamlined application;
- Ability to convert existing state income standards to modified adjusted gross income (MAGI);
- Ability to convey state-specific eligibility rules to the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM), as applicable;
- Ability to process applications based on MAGI rules;
- Ability to accept and send application files (accounts) to and from the FFM, as applicable;
- Ability to respond to inquiries from the Marketplace on current Medicaid or CHIP coverage; and
- Ability to verify eligibility based upon electronic data sources (the Federal Data Services Hub or an approved alternative)

Kansas is meeting all critical success factors, or has mitigations in place which have been approved by CMS, with the exception of the ability to send, receive and process application files (“accounts”) to and from the Federally-Facilitated Marketplace (FFM). During the June 11, 2014 call with the state and CMS, you discussed with us the current overall system implementation schedule and mitigations in place to compensate for the numerous delays the state has faced. To date, Kansas still does not have the ability to send or receive account transfers from the FFM, which interferes with Kansas residents’ ability to apply and enroll in Medicaid.

Following up on our ongoing discussions, I am writing to formally request that the Kansas Medicaid Program provide CMS with an updated mitigation plan to address the lack of account transfer functionality. Either an accelerated system schedule to move this service into production or, as a short term mitigation, adoption of the 1902(e)(14) waiver authority to use the account transfer “flat files” for enrollment, would be acceptable approaches to meeting this critical success factor. In addition, Kansas should include in the updated mitigation plan, a plan for how the state will process the backlog arising from delayed account transfer production. The 1902(e)(14) “flat file” waiver may also be an effective tool to help manage application backlog.

We ask that you provide CMS with this updated mitigation plan for our review and approval. Please submit the plan within 10 business days of this letter. We remain available to work with you to answer any questions and to provide technical assistance on possible mitigations. When the plan is complete, your staff can upload the required documentation to the state’s CALT folder and alert your CMS systems analyst via email. We have created a specific Mitigation Plan folder in the Medicaid State Collaborative Community for each state, and previously submitted mitigation plans have been migrated to each state’s folder. Please either update the original mitigation plan directly in CALT or upload an addendum to their state specific Mitigation Plan folder. Please find your state’s Mitigation Plan folder using this link: https://calt.cms.gov/sf/docman/do/listDocuments/projects.medicaid_state_collaborative_com/docman.root.mitigation_plans.

Thank you for your continued work toward meeting these requirements. Please feel free to contact Jessica Kahn, Acting Director, Data and Systems Group, at (410)786-9361 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cindy Mann
Director

cc: James Scott, Associate Regional Administrator, Region VII
Jess Kahn, Director, Data and Systems Group, CMCS
Jennifer Ryan, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs Group, CMCS
Eliot Fishman, Director, Children and Adults Health Programs Group, CMCS
Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director, Children and Adults Health Programs Group, CMCS