



Notice of Iowa Department of Human Services Public Comment Period for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan

The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan is a new Medicaid program created to provide comprehensive health care coverage to low-income, uninsured Iowans ages 19 to 64 which began on January 1, 2014.

The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan is one program that includes two separate coverage options. Eligibility is based on household income.

- *Iowa Wellness Plan:* Covers adults ages 19 to 64 whose income is at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$11,490 for individuals or \$15,510 for a family of two). The Iowa Wellness Plan is administered by Iowa Medicaid. Members have access to the statewide Medicaid provider network which means they have access to care from providers and hospitals in their local communities.
- *Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan:* Covers adults age 19 to 64 with income from 101 percent through 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (between \$11,491 and \$15,282 for individuals or \$15,511-\$20,628 for a family of two). The Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan allows members to select from participating commercial health care coverage plans available through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Medicaid pays the premiums to the commercial health plan on behalf of the member. Members have access to the network of local health care providers and hospitals served by the commercial insurance plan.

This notice is an update on the differences between the 1115 Waivers sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in August of 2013 and what was approved in December 2013. This serves as the **30-day public comment period, which closes March 8, at 4:30 pm.**

Both waivers contained additional requests to modify other aspects of the traditional Medicaid State Plan. Some of the waivers were permitted, while others were withdrawn. Details can be found below.

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Services (NEMT): Accepted

A waiver of NEMT services was requested because the enabling legislation specifies benefits and did not include NEMT. The waiver of NEMT services was accepted by CMS and NEMT will not be a covered service for Iowa Wellness Plan or Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan members.

Cost-Sharing Amount for Non-Emergent Use of Emergency Room: Modified

This waiver was requested as it aligns the waiver with Iowa Health and Wellness legislation and will test if a copayment of this amount impacts member care seeking behavior and reduces non-emergency ER visits. The waiver originally requested a \$10 copayment, and the final copayment was approved, with a modification, making the copayment \$8.

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnoses, and Testing (EPSDT): Withdrawn

A waiver of EPSDT was requested because the enabling legislation specifies benefits and did not include EPSDT. The request for the waiver was withdrawn. EPSDT will be covered for Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan members age 19 and 20.

Retroactive Eligibility: Withdrawn

A waiver of the standard Medicaid retroactive eligibility requirements was requested because the enabling legislation speaks to enrollment as of the first day of the month following eligibility determination and does not provide for retroactivity. The waiver was withdrawn. Iowa Wellness Plan and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan will adhere to existing Medicaid eligibility guidelines.

- Coverage Effective Date: First day of the month of application
 - Ex. Application received on January 15, coverage would be effective January 1
- Retroactive Eligibility: Up to three months of retroactive eligibility may be available.
 - Note: Retroactive eligibility begins January 2014, with the approval of the program. Eligibility cannot be made retroactive prior to January 2014.

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)/Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Access: Accepted

Applies to Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan Only. Medicaid programs are currently required to contract with all FQHCs and RHCs in the state. A waiver was requested to this requirement, because members will have access to the full provider network available from the qualified health plans. Additionally, the qualified health plans have contracted with FQHCs and RHCs in each geographic area. This waiver was accepted.

FQHC/RHC Reimbursement: Withdrawn

Applies to the Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan only. A waiver was requested to pay FQHCs and RHCs the reimbursement rate contracted by the qualified health plans, for services received by Marketplace Choice Plan members. The waiver was withdrawn. If the qualified health plan pays a rate to a FQHC or RHC that is lower than the Medicaid contracted rate, Medicaid will pay the difference for services received by Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan members at that clinic.

Use of Qualified Health Plan Formulary: Accepted

Applies to Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan Only. A waiver was requested to allow members of the Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan to use the qualified health plan drug formulary to define the prescription drug benefit. The waiver was accepted, and Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan members will use the qualified health plan drug formulary to determine prescription drug coverage.

Family Planning Providers and Services: Withdrawn

Applies to Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan only. A waiver was requested to permit Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan members to receive family planning services from the specific family planning providers contracted with the qualified health plans. The waiver was withdrawn, and Medicaid will cover family planning costs for any provider, not affiliated with the qualified health plan network.

This notice and other documents related to the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan may also be viewed at: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/iowa-health-and-wellness-plan.html>. Written comments may be addressed to Maggie Reilly, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50315. Comments may also be sent to the attention of: **DHS, Iowa Health and Wellness Plan** at DHSIMEHealthandWellnesPlan@dhs.state.ia.us **through March 8, 2014**. The public, by contacting Maggie Reilly at the above address, may review comments received.

Submitted by:
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