



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

May 1, 2017

Mr. Brian Neale  
Director, Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
[Brian.neale@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Brian.neale@cms.hhs.gov)

Re: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Amendment (Project Number 11-W-00289/5)

Dear Mr. Neale:

The State of Iowa (State) Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to submit the attached amendment request to its Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) §1115 Waiver Demonstration (Project Number 11-W-002289/5).

The IHAWP, implemented on January 1, 2014, to provide access to healthcare for low-income Iowans by employing a benefit design that was intended to improve outcomes, increase personal responsibility, and ultimately lower costs, while supporting a population that may be new to healthcare coverage. Through its unique incentive program, the IHAWP encourages member responsibility for their health care decisions by coupling a monthly required financial contribution with an incentive plan for members to actively seek preventive health services to earn an exemption from the monthly contribution requirement.

On May 1, 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the State's request to amend the IHAWP to provide tiered dental benefits through the Dental Wellness Plan (DWP). DWP enrollees are currently eligible to earn enhanced dental benefits when they demonstrate care-seeking behaviors by returning for regular preventive exams. In alignment with the original IHAWP goal of personal responsibility, this model was designed to encourage healthy preventive care-seeking behaviors among DWP enrollees and has proven successful in providing a statewide network of dentists supporting access to services for adults often new to dental coverage.

While individuals eligible as an expansion adult are enrolled in the DWP, with an earned benefit structure delivered via a managed care delivery system, all other Medicaid-enrolled adults receive State Plan dental benefits via a Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system. This delivery of adult dental benefits via two separate programs has posed challenges and complexities for both enrollees and providers.

Through this 1115 waiver amendment, the State seeks to modify the current DWP structure. Specifically, the State will implement an integrated dental program for all Medicaid enrollees aged 19 and over. This redesigned and streamlined DWP structure will encourage utilization of preventive dental services and compliance with treatment plans by requiring members to complete a State designated "healthy behavior" annually. Enrollees who complete their healthy behavior, including an oral health self-assessment and preventive dental exam, within their first year of enrollment will maintain full dental benefits, while those who do not complete the healthy behaviors will be required to make monthly premium payments to maintain full dental benefits. The State has designed this innovative incentive structure to improve oral health while also eliminating the challenges and complexities of two separate delivery systems for dental benefits.

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The State looks forward to continuing to work with its federal partners at CMS to ensure continued improvement of the DWP while continuing to promote the program's goals of increased personal responsibility and improved outcomes.

Please do not hesitate to contact my team if you have any questions with this submission.

Sincerely,



Mikki Stier, MSHA, FACHE  
Medicaid Director

MS/sj

Enclosures: Iowa Health and Wellness Plan §1115 Demonstration Amendment (Project Number 11-W-00289/5)  
Application

cc: Jennifer Kostasich, CMS Central Office  
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\* The State will submit finalized Budget Neutrality documentation as well as a revised version of this §1115 Demonstration Amendment Application incorporating public comments at the conclusion of the 30-day public comment period.