

## Public Notice

### **Public Comment Period for State Plan Amendments IA-20-015: Medical Exemption Process for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP)**

**Posted: July 30, 2020**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with 42 CFR §440.386, that the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) has posted for public comment a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA), IA-20-015, related to modifications to the medical exemption process for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP).

#### **Summary**

Individuals eligible for the IHAWP receive benefits in accordance with Iowa's Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) unless they are determined medically exempt. Individuals who are determined medically exempt receive Medicaid State Plan benefits. Enrollees are considered medically exempt, in accordance with 42 CFR §440.315(f), if they have any of the following conditions:

- Disabling mental disorder
- Chronic substance use disorder
- Serious and complex medical condition
- Physical, intellectual or developmental disability that significantly impairs the ability to perform one or more activity of daily living (ADL)
- Disability designation from the Social Security Administration

Currently, individuals can be determined medically exempt via provider referral or enrollee self-identification. Through this SPA, DHS intends to implement an additional mechanism to address individuals who are receiving State Plan services which are non-covered under the ABP and subsequently become eligible for the IHAWP. DHS will implement a process whereby a medical exemption review is conducted on these cases. This process is intended to ensure the continuation of medically necessary services with no gap in coverage.

The State will ensure compliance with 42 CFR §440.345 related to early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT) requirements by inspecting medical and peer review records, as well as regular reports of health screenings and examination related activities. The State will assure compliance with the provisions of section 5006(e) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by continuing to engage in tribal consultation, in accordance with federal law and the Iowa Medicaid State Plan. Tribal notice has been provided for this SPA.

These changes are effective December 1, 2020, pending federal approval.

**Public Review and Comments**

This notice and information about the SPA are available at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/public-notices/medical-exemption>. Non-electronic copies will be made available for review at each DHS Field Office.

Written comments may be addressed to Anna Ruggle, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 611 Fifth Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to [aruggle@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:aruggle@dhs.state.ia.us). Please indicate SPA IA-20-015 in the subject line of the email.

All comments on these SPAs must be received by August 31, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

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