



**Children and Adults Health Programs Group**

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December 18, 2020

Marylou Sudders  
Secretary  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Sudders,

Your title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) number MA-20-0010, submitted on June 30, 2020, with additional information submitted on December 18, 2020, has been approved. This SPA has an effective date of March 18, 2020.

This amendment, as it applies to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), makes the following changes beginning March 18, 2020, unless otherwise specified below, and through the duration of the federally-declared PHE, or at state discretion, a shorter period of time:

- Increase the number of presumptive eligibility (PE) periods from one to two within a 12-month period, beginning with the start date of the first PE period; and,
- Waive premiums and the premium lock-out period for those who apply for a hardship waiver, effective April 7, 2020.

The state will also use the regulatory timeliness exception for timely processing of CHIP renewals under 42 CFR 457.340(d)(1) and delay acting on changes in circumstances for CHIP beneficiaries, other than the required changes in circumstances described in 42 CFR 457.342(a) cross-referencing 42 CFR 435.926(d). The state will follow CMS-issued guidance regarding resuming the timely processing of renewals and changes in circumstance.

In the event of a future disaster, Massachusetts may implement the aforementioned temporary policy adjustments related to premiums and premium lock-out periods by simply notifying CMS of its intent, the effective date and duration of the provision, and a list of applicable state or federally-declared disaster or emergency areas. While the state must provide notice to CMS, this option provides an administratively streamlined pathway for the state to effectively respond to an evolving disaster event.

Your title XXI project officer is Ms. Tess Hines. She is available to answer your questions concerning this amendment and other CHIP-related issues. Ms. Hines' contact information is as follows:

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If you have additional questions, please contact Meg Barry, Acting Director, Division of State Coverage Programs, at (410) 786-1536. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Lutzky", written over a thin horizontal line.

Amy Lutzky  
Deputy Director