

Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification

CMCS Informational Bulletin

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SUBJECT: Medicaid State Technical Assistance Teams and Virtual Meeting Series

Secretary Sebelius issued a letter yesterday to all Governors announcing that senior leadership from across the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will be available to talk to States individually about their priorities and how HHS can help achieve them. The letter and attachment can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110203c.html>.

As part of that effort, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has formed Medicaid State Technical Assistance Teams (MSTATs) who are ready to provide intensive and tailored assistance to States on day-to-day operations as well as on new initiatives. These teams will help States strategize on ways to improve the efficiency of their Medicaid program in light of current State budget challenges. In addition, CMS will host a series of “virtual” meetings to share information about promising Medicaid cost-saving initiatives.

This informational bulletin provides information about how the Medicaid State Technical Assistance Teams will work and how to access their help, as well as information about “virtual” meetings with States. We are excited about this opportunity to step up our efforts to help States improve care and manage costs.

Medicaid State Technical Assistance Teams

The MSTATs are cross-cutting teams with knowledge of Medicaid financing, eligibility, coverage, systems, administrative claiming, and waivers, as well as existing State-specific issues. The teams will also bring in expertise from the CMS Innovation Center and the Federal Coordinated Health Care Office (for “dual eligibles”).

The goal of the teams is to partner with States to ensure that States have the information allowing them to take full advantage of existing opportunities, are aware of emerging delivery care models that provide program savings, and are structuring new program innovations to maximize resources. The teams will work with individual States to assist in any area a State has identified or to help States identify specific program areas that may yield efficiencies. This could include:

- restructuring health care delivery models,
- restructuring of payment and/or finance,

- providing technical assistance on the proper claiming of costs,
- identifying existing costs or programs that could be claimed as Medicaid, or
- sharing practices identified in other States that result in cost savings or full revenue attainment.

While the teams will consist of both regional and central office staff, we have designated a single point of contact to make the process easier for States. If your State is interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact Venesa Day, Financial Management Group, Division of Reimbursement and State Financing, at 410-786-8281 or via email at venesa.day@cms.hhs.gov. After you contact CMS, we will quickly assess your request and identify your core team based on your areas of interest.

Virtual Meeting Series

In order to expedite efforts to support States, CMS will host a series of “virtual” meetings for State health policy advisors and State Medicaid Directors. In these meetings CMS will share information about promising cost-saving initiatives that are underway in one or more States that we could approve on a fast-track basis as well as other cost-saving models that are being implemented throughout the country.

The first “virtual” meeting will take place next week. An invitation will follow shortly.

We hope you find this information helpful. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Medicaid program.