



The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

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September 8, 2003

Ms. Meredith Robertson
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
7500 Security Blvd. Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Robertson:

We are submitting for your review and approval an amendment to California's Title XXI State Plan. This amendment requests approval to claim Title XXI federal funding for children deemed presumptively eligible for the Healthy Families Program.

As described in our state plan, the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, established as a "gateway" to the Healthy Families Program, informed families about no cost Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Programs. In addition, the Healthy Families Program provided reimbursement to CHDP providers for services received by children enrolled in the Healthy Families Program for up to 90 days prior to the effective date of coverage. In an effort to provide immediate access to comprehensive health coverage to uninsured children, the gateway program has been revised to instead grant presumptive eligibility.

Effective July 1, 2003, the Department of Health Services (DHS) in collaboration with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) designated CHDP providers as a qualified entity to grant presumptive eligibility to uninsured children. DHS has already received CMS approval for CHDP providers to be designated as a qualified entity to grant presumptive eligibility. This state plan amendment requests corollary approval for presumptive eligibility for Healthy Families.

Families of children receiving health screens with a CHDP provider will complete a pre-enrollment application which will provide the child with presumptive eligibility coverage for the month of application and the following month. Presumptive eligibility coverage will continue if a joint application for enrollment is received by the State's Single Point of Entry, and will last until a final eligibility determination is made. During the period of presumptive eligibility, Healthy Families benefits will be provided through the Medi-Cal fee-for-service delivery system.

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Based on the information provided by the applicant on the pre-enrollment application, California will claim the applicable federal share of funds through either Title XIX or Title XXI, whichever is appropriate. When Title XXI is the payer, California will only claim for approved Healthy Families Program benefits. The enclosed state plan amendment reflects the necessary changes to California's state plan to implement presumptive eligibility and includes details of the process.

We look forward to your approval of this amendment so that California may continue to aggressively promote enrollment in the Healthy Families Program and reduce the number of uninsured children in the state. If you have any questions on this state plan amendment, please feel free to contact Janette Lopez of my staff at JLopez@mrmib.ca.gov or (916) 327-6237.

Sincerely,
Lesley Cummings
Executive Director

Enclosure