

June 30, 2004

Maria Sotirelis
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
7500 Security Blvd., Room S2-03-18
Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Sotirelis:

The purpose of this letter is to request a modification to Missouri's State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) State Plan to reflect passage of House Bill 1453 during Missouri's 92nd General Assembly 2004 legislative session. This legislation eliminates the waiting period for uninsured children with special health care needs to receive health care coverage under Missouri's SCHIP State Plan. This change is effective July 1, 2004. The program continues to operate as approved, except for the change outlined below.

1. Any child identified as having special health care needs, defined as a condition which left untreated would result in the death or serious physical injury of a child, that does not have access to affordable employer-subsidized health care insurance will be exempt from the requirement to be without health care coverage for six months in order to be eligible for services.
2. A child shall not be subject to the 30-day waiting period as long as the child meets all other qualifications for eligibility.

The Department of Social Services estimates that 126 children would meet the guidelines for eliminating the waiting period in State Fiscal Year 2005. Please refer to the enclosed worksheets outlining the phase-in of applicable eligibles and their related costs taking into account the inflation forecast for medical care. Also enclosed are the applicable pages of House Bill 1453 and the proposed revised SCHIP State Plan pages.

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Please feel free to contact Christine Rackers, Director, Division of Medical Services at 573-751-6922 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Roling
Director

SR:sme

Enclosures

cc: Thomas W. Lenz, Kansas City Regional Office

bcc: Christine Rackers
Denise Cross, Family Support Division
Billie Waite
Sandra Levels
Judy Muck
Susan Eggen
Master File