

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Family and Children's Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid and State Operations

October 30, 2003

Ms. Lesley Cummings
Executive Director
The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board
P.O. Box 2769
Sacramento, CA 95812-2769

Dear Ms. Cummings,

Thank you for your State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) state plan amendment submitted on September 9, 2003. As you are aware, your proposal has been undergoing review by the Department of Health and Human Services. In order to proceed with our review, we find it necessary to seek further information. Our major concerns relate to the following area:

- Section 4.3, related to the methods of establishing eligibility and continuing enrollment. Please provide clarification that the State will not be providing presumptive eligibility benefits to children after a final eligibility determination is made.
- Section 9.10, related to the budget. Please provide an assurance that the State will not claim any federal match for non-SCHIP services provided to presumptively eligible children.

The enclosure more fully explains this and other areas of the proposal that require additional information and clarification. CMS may have further questions in addition to the information requested at this time, e.g., questions related to the benefits provided to children found presumptively eligible for SCHIP.

Under section 2106(c) of the Social Security Act, CMS must approve, disapprove, or request additional information on a proposed title XXI State plan amendment within 90 days. This constitutes our notification that specified additional information is needed in order to assess fully the concerns raised in this letter. The 90-day review period has been stopped by this request and will resume as soon as the State's response to this request for additional information is received. The members of the Review Team will be happy to answer any questions you may have in regard to this letter and to assist your staff in formulating a response.

Please send your response, either on disk or electronically, as well as in hard copy, to Meredith Robertson, project officer for the California title XXI proposal, with a copy to the CMS Region IX Office.

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Ms. Robertson's Internet address is mrobertson@cms.hhs.gov. Her mailing address is:

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Division of State Children's Health Insurance
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We appreciate the efforts of your staff and share your goal of providing health care to low-income, uninsured children through title XXI. If you have questions or concerns regarding the matters raised in this letter, your staff may contact either Meredith Robertson at (410) 786-6543 or Cheryl Young, CMS Region IX, at (415) 744-3598. They will provide or arrange for any technical assistance you may require in preparing your response. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Austein Casnoff
Director
Division of State Health Children's Insurance

Enclosure

cc: CMS Region IX DMSO

ENCLOSURE

Sections 3.1 and 4.3

1. The state plan amendment proposes to provide presumptive eligibility “beginning the first month in which the pre-enrollment application was completed, and continue through the following month.” Presumptive eligibility cannot be provided once a final eligibility determination is made, please clarify that children will not continue to receive SCHIP benefits under presumptive eligibility after a final eligibility determination is made.

Sections 3.1, 4.3, and 9.10

2. It is our understanding that children determined presumptively eligible for SCHIP would receive the Medicaid benefit package. However, children determined presumptively eligible for SCHIP are eligible for the SCHIP benefit package only. Please clarify that the state will not claim any federal match on non-SCHIP benefits for children who are found presumptively eligible for SCHIP.