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AUG 16 2013

Ms. Nancy Atkins  
Commissioner  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources  
350 Capitol Street, Room 251  
Charleston, WV 25301-3706

Dear Ms. Atkins:

This letter is in response to the State of West Virginia's request for a waiver under section 1902(e)(14)(A) of the Social Security Act for the purpose of streamlining the enrollment of certain eligible individuals into Medicaid and to avoid unduly burdening the new income and eligibility determination systems that West Virginia will be implementing. I am pleased to inform you that your request is approved.

This waiver will enable the state to enroll into Medicaid, beginning on October 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2015, individuals who are between age 18 and 65, not receiving Supplemental Security Income, and who are receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The state will also be permitted to enroll eligible parents of children currently enrolled in Medicaid during that same period. Enrollment in Medicaid in this manner will continue, pending income eligibility determinations under the new income and eligibility determination system, for a period necessary for the state to conduct the orderly processing of those determinations.

As stated in our May 17, 2013, guidance, section 1902(e)(14)(A) generally requires the use of the MAGI-based income methodology to determine Medicaid eligibility, and also allows for waivers "as are necessary to ensure that states establish income and eligibility determination systems that protect beneficiaries." Such waivers are time-limited and are meant to promote enrollment of eligible individuals by easing the administrative burden states may experience as they transition to their new eligibility systems, and helping to manage the increase in applications for coverage that will be effective on January 1, 2014. The procedures West Virginia intends to establish under this authority will help ensure that eligible individuals are enrolled in Medicaid in a streamlined and efficient manner so they can get the benefits of their health coverage as quickly as possible. As described in the May 17<sup>th</sup> guidance, West Virginia will collect and verify additional information, such as citizenship, required to complete the Medicaid enrollment process.

This approval is based on the information presented in your letter, dated July 30, 2013:

- **Identification of need:** West Virginia estimates that in 2014, as many as 90,000 eligible individuals will be seeking Medicaid coverage as a result of the Medicaid eligibility expansion effective January 2014. The state anticipates that this large influx of

applicants will constitute a significant increase in workload for its limited staff. The flexibility provided under this waiver will help alleviate this workload increase while the state makes the transition to its new eligibility and enrollment system and will help ensure timely enrollment into health coverage for all applicants.

West Virginia estimates that 34,000 individuals will be eligible to be enrolled in Medicaid based on their enrollment in SNAP, and 52,000 parents whose children are currently enrolled in Medicaid, and whose household income is below 138 percent of the federal poverty level, will also be eligible to enroll in Medicaid as a result of the 2014 Medicaid expansion. After accounting for overlap between the two groups, West Virginia anticipates that the strategies described in the May 17<sup>th</sup> guidance will enable the state to streamline enrollment of 60,000 individuals, or two-thirds of the total number of expected Medicaid-eligible applicants.

- **When MAGI-based income eligibility determinations will be completed:** West Virginia will make MAGI-based income eligibility determinations for all individuals enrolled in Medicaid based on SNAP eligibility, and as parents of eligible children, not later than one year after initial enrollment, except that such determinations will be made promptly in cases where the household reports a change that potentially impacts income eligibility.
- **Duration of the waiver:** West Virginia's waiver will begin October 1, 2013, and will continue until December 31, 2016. (This will give the state 12 months to conduct MAGI determinations for any individual enrolled in Medicaid as described above.)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services applauds West Virginia's commitment to ensuring that eligible individuals are enrolled in Medicaid in a streamlined manner. We will continue to work with you to answer questions related to implementation, including issues related to federal medical assistance percentage claiming, and on tracking the progress of enrollment under the waiver, as described in our previous correspondence.

Congratulations on this approval. Please contact Jennifer Ryan, Deputy Director of the Children and Adults Health Programs Group at (410) 786-5647 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Cindy Mann  
Director

cc: Fran McCullough, Associate Regional Administrator for Medicaid, Region III