



Disabled & Elderly Health Programs Group

December 16, 2020

Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs
CA Department of Health Care Services
Director's Office, MS 0000
P.O. Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7418

Dear Ms. Cooper:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) received your request, dated May 8, 2020, for a temporary extension of California's Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health 1915(b) waiver program under CMS control number CA-17. The current temporary waiver authority expires on December 31, 2020.

You have requested this extension through December 31, 2021, to allow California's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) additional time to develop and obtain approval for California's Medi-Cal California Advancing and Innovating (CalAIM) initiative, and to align with the proposed one-year extension of California's Section 1115(a) Demonstration entitled Medi-Cal 2020. The state's intent of the Medi-Cal CalAIM initiative includes transitioning the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health 1915(b) waiver program and the Medi-Cal 2020 1115(a) Demonstration to a single comprehensive section 1915(b) waiver with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2022.

On June 1, 2020, the CMS granted a 6-month temporary extension of California's Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health 1915(b) waiver to continue to operate under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act. This temporary extension will expire on December 31, 2020. At this time, CMS is granting an additional three (3) month temporary extension of California's Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health 1915(b) waiver to continue to operate under section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act. This temporary extension will expire on March 31, 2021. CMS will coordinate with the state to remain cognizant of the CalAIM initiative status and the need for additional temporary extension requests.

CMS will continue to work with your staff during the extension period. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Sale at (214) 767-4419, or Kitaho Kato at (415) 744-3639, in the Division of Managed Care Plan Operations (DMCO), or Tonya Dobbin, Division of Managed Care Policy (DMCP), at (410) 786-3032.

Sincerely,

Carrie Smith

Carrie Smith
Deputy Director

cc: Erika Cristo, California Department of Health Care Services
Bill Brooks, CMS