



BRADLEY P. GILBERT, MD, MPP
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2020

Ms. Anne Marie Costello, Director
Children and Adults Health Programs Group
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Costello:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is implementing the provisions of Title XXI Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan Amendment (SPA) 17-0043. This SPA allows DHCS to waive the monthly premiums and other cost-sharing, such as co-pays, and to implement temporary adjustments to enrollment, eligibility determination, and/or redetermination policies, for specific CHIP populations during specified months of a Governor declared or federally recognized disaster. These temporary adjustments would apply to the following as specified below:

- Lower-Income Unborn Option
- Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP)
- Medi-Cal Access Infant Program (MCAIP)
- If applicable, the County Children's Health Initiative Program (CCHIP)

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom officially declared a state of emergency in California over the increasing numbers of reported cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The state requests that the temporary provisions of 17-0043 be implemented effective March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

Based on the Governor declared state of emergency, California intends to provide temporary policy adjustments to:

- Continue to provide benefits beyond certification period to provide additional time to submit renewals or verifications for the MCAIP and, if applicable, CCHIP populations.

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- Modify eligibility requirements at application or renewal to allow for self-attestation for the MCAP, MCAIP, the lower income unborn option, and if applicable, CCHIP populations.

For households directly impacted by the COVID-19, California intends to provide temporary policy adjustments to:

- Waive payment of monthly premiums for MCAP, MCAIP, and, if applicable, CCHIP beneficiaries.

In compliance with the new policy set forth by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, DHCS notified Indian Health Programs (IHPs) and Urban Indian (UI) Organizations of CA-17-0043. On October 25, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved DHCS' rationale that no tribal consultation was needed for CHIP SPA CA-17-0043.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by _____

Jacey Cooper
Chief Deputy Director
Health Care Programs
State Medicaid Director

cc: René Mollow, MSN, RN
Deputy Director
Health Care Benefits and Eligibility
Department of Health Care Services
Rene.Mollow@dhcs.ca.gov

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division
Department of Health Care Services
Sandra.Williams@dhcs.ca.gov