

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6706



Regional Operations Group

September 24, 2019

Mari Cantwell, Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Dear Ms. Cantwell:

On June 18, 2019, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a request for a Superior Systems Waiver (SSW) renewal, from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2024. This waiver renewal has been approved for a five year period and is effective October 1, 2019.

The SSW renewal describes Fee-For-Service (FFS) utilization management review in Designated Public Hospitals (DPH) and Non-Designated Public Hospitals (NDPH) and the approach that meets the needs of each hospital type. The approaches are: 1.) the Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) process whereby hospitals submit TAR requests to DHCS for review and approval prior to claiming services, and 2.) the TAR-Free process wherein hospitals use evidenced-based standardized medical review criteria to determine medical necessity and claims for services, followed by a DHCS compliance review. By applying the utilization medical review based on the hospital type, DHCS is able to contain the costs associated with acute inpatient hospital stays resulting from the evidenced-based medical review criteria conducted by staff clinicians.

CMS appreciates DHCS' collaboration on this matter. We look forward to continuing our work on the SSW. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Creggett at (415) 744-3656 or kathleen.creggett@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Richard C. Allen
Director
Western Regional Operations Group

cc: Doug Robbins, Chief, Clinical Assurance and Administrative Support Division, DHCS