

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Supra</i>	DATE <i>5-2-12</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101424</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
<i>*Electronically sent to District, Singleton, Depo cc CMS file</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

April 3, 2012

**Re: State Operations and Technical
Assistance Teams**

Dear State Medicaid and CHIP Directors:

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) is pleased to announce the creation of State Operations and Technical Assistance (SOTA) teams. The objective of these multidisciplinary teams is to create an efficient, effective, and responsive way for CMS to provide support and technical assistance to States on matters relating to implementation of the Medicaid and CHIP provisions of the Affordable Care Act that will take effect in January 2014.

We recognize that building the infrastructure to accommodate the Medicaid coverage and simplification provisions and coordination with the new affordable insurance Exchanges requires planning and implementation work on the part of States. CMCS plans to serve as a resource and partner to assist States through this process. The SOTA teams will serve as a consistent, multidisciplinary point of contact for information sharing related to implementation of these matters, including systems, eligibility, and benefits. The teams will work closely with the State-based teams in the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIO) to ensure coordination with respect to Exchange development in all instances where there are overlapping issues.

To begin this new approach to partnership and to assess States' needs, we plan to set up a conference call with each State Medicaid and CHIP Director over the next two months. Representing CMS will be a "core team" of CMCS and Regional Office leadership that includes the CMCS Office of the Center Director, the Children and Adults Health Programs Group (CAHPG), the Data and Systems Group (DSG), the Consortium for Medicaid and CHIP Operations (CMCHO) and the Associate Regional Administrator for Medicaid (ARA) from each State's CMS Regional Office. Other groups within CMCS will also be involved as this effort progresses and based on States' areas of interest.

We will be asking States to identify a point of contact and a leadership team to work with CMS and participate in ongoing monthly calls with the SOTA teams. Following the initial meetings with the State Medicaid and CHIP Directors, the SOTA teams will schedule a more in-depth call with each State to discuss additional issues and information needs.

To complement the SOTA teams, we will also facilitate State-to-State conversations where there are matters of common interest and make technical assistance available on a variety of policy and operational topics, staffed by our leading CMCS subject matter experts. These experts will

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be called upon to address States' more specific technical questions within a particular area of implementation. Possible topics include:

- Eligibility and Enrollment Systems
- Medicaid/CHIP Eligibility Policy
- Medicaid/CHIP Operations
- Coordination with the Exchanges
- 1115 Waiver Transitions
- Financing/FMAP
- Program Integrity
- Delivery Systems/Benefits & Plans
- Information Systems
- Outreach
- Appeals

The SOTA teams are not intended to supplant current working groups or to add additional burden to States. Rather they are designed to offer a point of coordination and information management to ensure that States have access to the range of resources that we have available to prepare for the implementation of the Medicaid and CHIP provisions of the law.

We look forward to this new opportunity for collaboration and welcome States' feedback on the approach, now and as we move forward. Please contact Jennifer Ryan, Deputy Director for Policy, Children and Adults Health Programs Group at jennifer.ryan@cms.hhs.gov or 443-827-6244 with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Cindy Mann

Cc: Jackie Garner, CMCHO
Associate Regional Administrators for Medicaid
Amanda Cowley, CCPIO



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