



Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

OCT 27 2011

Toby Douglas
Director of Health Care Programs
California Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Dear Mr. Douglas:

Enclosed is an approved copy of California State plan amendment (SPA) 09-020. This amendment provides that, effective August 1, 2009, the weighted average Medi-Cal rate for freestanding skilled nursing facilities level-B and freestanding subacute skilled nursing facilities level-B for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 rate years shall not be increased with respect to the weighted average Medi-Cal rate for the 2008-2009 rate year.

We conducted our review of your submittal with particular attention to the statutory requirements at sections 1902(a)(13) and 1902(a)(30) of the Social Security Act (Act). Because I find that this amendment complies with applicable requirements, Medicaid State plan amendment 09-020 is approved effective August 1, 2009. We are enclosing the HCFA-179 and the amended plan pages.

As part of the analysis of this amendment, the State was able to provide metrics which adequately demonstrated beneficiary access in accordance with section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act. In general, these metrics included data which provided:

- Total number of providers by type and geographic location and participating Medi-Cal providers by type and geographic area
- Total number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries by eligibility type
- Utilization of services by eligibility type over time
- Analysis of benchmark service utilization where available

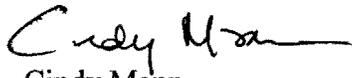
Data concerning these metrics were submitted for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2008, 2009 and 2010 and analyzed via the review process for SPA 09-020. These metrics demonstrated a baseline level of beneficiary access that we find is consistent with the requirements of section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act. As well as determining beneficiary access for SFYs 2009 and 2010, the State also submitted a monitoring plan as part of SPA 08-009B1 (also approved today) that would apply to the services at issue in this SPA by which beneficiary access will be monitored on a service-by-service basis. The State will monitor predetermined metrics on a quarterly or annual basis in order to ensure that beneficiary access is comparable to services available to the general population in the geographic area.

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In light of the data CMS reviewed, the monitoring plan, and our consideration of stakeholder input, we determined that the above mentioned amendment complies with section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Act.

If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Mark Wong at (415) 744-3561.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Mann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy Mann
Director

Enclosures