

State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



California  
Department of  
Health Services

**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
*Director*



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

June 6, 2007

**To:** Hospice Providers, and Home Health Agency Providers

**Subject:** Interest in Providing Pediatric Palliative Care Services to California Children Services (CCS) Eligible Children

The purpose of this notice is to offer your agency an opportunity to express your interest in participating in the pediatric palliative care pilot waiver program that is being developed in California. In accordance with AB 1745, Children's Medical Services (CMS) Branch and the Medi-Cal program are collaborating together to devise this program and submit a waiver application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/CMS by January 1, 2008. The California Hospice and Palliative Care Association, and Children's Hospice and Palliative Care Coalition were active throughout the state to develop support for the program to provide palliative care services for children and their families.

This will be a 1915 (c) Home and Community Based Services waiver which will allow children up to 21 years of age, with CCS eligible medical conditions, to receive a range of supportive services while simultaneously receiving treatment services for their medical condition. The waiver will also allow children, determined eligible for palliative care services, to be deemed eligible for Medi-Cal.

We have met several times with a large group of stakeholders, including the Coalition, hospices and home health agencies, to strategize and obtain input for the development and implementation of a pediatric palliative care model and are now prepared to move forward to determine potential pilot sites, thus the purpose of this letter.

Currently, there is no reimbursement for pediatric palliative care and those families who have children who are eligible for hospice care often have not taken advantage of existing hospice services because of the need to acknowledge a six month life expectancy and the requirement to renounce any more treatment services. We acknowledge that currently service providers willing and capable of working with pediatric patients and their families are limited. We hope, through the development of this project, to generate local interest in providing these services. The waiver will provide a payment source, through Medi-Cal, for new services to support eligible children and their families.

Hospice Providers, and Home Health Agency Providers  
Page 2  
June 6, 2007

Both prior to, and during the pilot project, there will be opportunities for training and development of the specific expertise necessary to deliver effective services. Additional trainings and support would be offered to participating agencies regarding administrative activities, including billing assistance and data management activities.

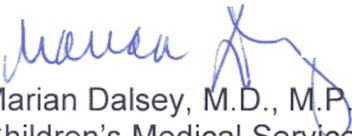
It is anticipated that the pilot sites will be in three to four geographic areas, which may include multiple counties. Participating counties would be those who are designated "independent" by the CCS program and where Medi-Cal managed care plans have CCS services that are "carved out" of the plan's responsibilities. Ideally, the participating CCS counties will have a liaison specifically focused on working with the local home health and/or hospice agencies in order to provide responsive authorization and case management for patients and their families.

The CCS program would like to receive a response in the form of an email notice from agencies interested in providing pediatric palliative care services. We would like to hear comments you may have related to the project as identified thus far. Proposed eligibility criteria, service delivery, and data outcomes/evaluation measures for the waiver were explored by three subcommittees from the larger stakeholder group. This information is available on the CCS website at the following link:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/ppc/subcommittees.htm>. Please review these to determine if you have an interest in participating in a project such as this.

Your response does not imply a commitment of any kind, however this indication of interest will help us to determine where to focus our projects and type of assistance agencies of your capacities would like to receive. If your agency is interested please email Erin Winter at: [ewinter@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:ewinter@dhs.ca.gov) no later than June 22, 2007.

Sincerely,



Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch