

July 10, 2024

THIS LETTER SENT VIA EMAIL

Ms. Cheryl Young
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group
Division of Program Operations, West Branch
90 Seventh Street, Suite 5-300 (5W)
San Francisco, CA 94103-6707

SUPERIOR SYSTEMS WAIVER RENEWAL

Dear Ms. Young:

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is submitting its Superior Systems Waiver (SSW) Renewal request for your review and approval. This comprehensive SSW Renewal request describes Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS) utilization management in California hospitals for inpatient hospital stays. DHCS seeks approval of the SSW Renewal effective October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2029.

The purpose of the SSW is to allow California to effectively manage and control unnecessary and excessive utilization of Medi-Cal FFS acute inpatient services. Under the authority of the SSW, California achieves this goal by employing a thorough and thoughtful utilization review (UR) plan that best meets the needs of distinct hospital types in California. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) informed DHCS on November 8, 2023, that tribal notification for this SSW Renewal was not necessary. CMS also informed DHCS on November 28, 2023, that the SSW Renewal is not subject to federal public notice requirements.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 917-8182 or by email at Paul.Miller@dhcs.ca.gov

Sincerely,



Paul Miller, M.A., Interim Division Chief
Clinical Assurance Division
Department of Health Care Services

Attachments

1. Approaches to Acute Inpatient Services Utilization Review
2. Historical Timeline: Utilization Review Approach & Payment Method
3. Comparison of the 2024-2029 SSW Utilization Review Processes to the Requirements of Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 456, Utilization Control, Subpart C, Utilization Control: Hospitals, §§ 456.50 through 456.145
4. Designated Public Hospital Participation Agreement; and
5. Non-Designated Public Hospital and Private Hospital Participation Agreement

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