



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

July 14, 2026

Tyler Sadwith, State Medicaid Director
California Department of Health Care Services
1515 K Street
P.O. Box 997436, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7437

RE: California Appendix K Amendments

Dear Director Sadwith:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving California's request to amend the 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Assisted Living waiver program in order to add Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix Ks in response to a chemical leak incident. The CMS Control Numbers and effective dates for the amendments are listed below. Please use these numbers in future correspondence relevant to these waiver actions.

- CA 0431.R04.04 (Orange County Chemical Incident): Effective from May 21, 2026, to May 21, 2027

These amendments add an Appendix K to allow the state to temporarily grant an extension of the current 30 days to 60-day re-enrollment period for participants who are unable to return to their assisted living facility because of the Orange County chemical leak state of emergency, so they are not dis-enrolled as a result of the emergency. Assisted Living services and Residential Habilitation services to be provided in alternate settings and designated evacuation centers, such as hotels, shelters, schools, churches, campgrounds, convention centers, etc. to allow for continuity of care for waiver participants, and in accordance with their plan of treatment. The state can temporarily suspend the 60-day enrollment period for applicants who are unable to complete the application submission process and/or secure a bed in an assisted living facility because they or the facility has been impacted by the Orange County chemical leak. Also, applicants who are assigned waiver slots and are unsuccessful in securing a placement in a facility would be allowed to keep the slot. We have included the approved Appendix K pages for this waiver with this correspondence. Please utilize the waiver management system for HCBS waivers for any further amendments to these waiver programs other than Appendix K.

Thank you for your cooperation during the review process. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact me at (410) 786-7561. You may also contact Lisa Amaro-Rife at Lisa.Amaro-Rife@cms.hhs.gov or (214) 767-2516.

Sincerely,

George P. Failla, Jr., Director
Division of HCBS Operations and Oversight

Enclosure

cc: Courtney Miller, MCOG
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Curtis Cunningham, MBHPG
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