



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Utah Department of Health

W. David Patton, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Division of Medicaid and Health Financing

Michael Hales
Deputy Director, Utah Department of Health
Director, Division of Medicaid and Health Financing

March 31, 2014

Members of the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Subcommittee Member:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the Department of Health to update its State Plan and existing waivers for Medicaid when the State makes changes to the program. In accordance with these changes and reporting requirements of Subsection 26-18-3(3)(a), the following is a summary of recent changes:

Physician Services

The Department has transmitted a State Plan Amendment to update and consolidate psychiatric services in the Medicaid State Plan.

This amendment updates the State Plan by removing provisions for psychiatric services that have already been consolidated in another section of the State Plan, which specifies rehabilitative mental health services for eligible Medicaid recipients.

There is no cost shift to more expensive services for Medicaid beneficiaries and their families as a result of this update.

Nurse Practitioner Services

The Department has transmitted a State Plan Amendment to better facilitate client access to health care throughout Utah.

This amendment now allows all licensed nurse practitioners to bill Medicaid directly for their services. The amendment also specifies limitations on nurse practitioner services.

There is no cost shift to more expensive services for Medicaid beneficiaries and their families. This amendment will promote better access to providers for Medicaid beneficiaries.



1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

The Department submitted the five-year renewal of the Acquired Brain Injury Waiver. The current waiver expires June 30, 2014. The only change is the revision of performance measures to further safeguard waiver participants.

The Department also submitted an amendment to the New Choices Waiver to increase the number of waiver participants from 1400 to 1700.

Please let me know if you have any questions on these amendments to the Medicaid State Plan and waivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Hales" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Hales
Deputy Director, Department of Health
Director, Medicaid and Health Financing