Dear [Medicaid Director]:

I am writing to you today to request that you submit a waiver to CMS that would allow the state’s Medicaid program to reimburse pharmacies for providing home delivery services of prescription drugs during the COVID-19 outbreak. These home delivery services are essential to help Medicaid beneficiaries practice social distancing while ensuring they maintain access to their life-saving medications.

As you are aware, President Trump declared that the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes a national emergency. In response to that declaration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken steps to remove red tape to allow states more flexibility in amending their Medicaid programs to provide appropriate benefits to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. CMS has provided a [template](https://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/downloads/medicaid-disaster-relief-spa-template.docx) for states to request an 1135 waiver to amend their state Medicaid plans to increase enrollment and provide for additional benefits to battle the disease. One of the additional benefits highlighted in the template is an adjustment to the professional dispensing fee to account for additional costs incurred by pharmacists for home delivery. To offset the costs of these additional services, Congress passed the “[Families First Coronavirus Response Act](https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6201/BILLS-116hr6201enr.pdf),” which increased the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) by 6.2% for the duration of the national emergency.

I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to encourage the increased use of home delivery services for prescription drugs. To control the spread of COVID-19, people must remain in their homes as much as possible. This is difficult, if not impossible, for those who need to travel to the pharmacy to pick up their prescription medications. Fortunately, community pharmacies are prepared to assist those patients by delivering their medications straight to their door. To ensure pharmacies can continue providing these services for their vulnerable patients, the state must apply for an adjustment to the professional dispensing fee to account for the additional costs incurred by offering home delivery services.

Please ensure community pharmacies have the resources they need to keep patients healthy during these uncertain times. If you have any questions about the information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,