

Opportunity for Enhanced Dispensing Fees/Supplemental Payments for Home Delivery in Medicaid

In response to President Trump's national emergency declaration, 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](#) 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 expedite the waiver process, CMS allows states to request a waiver of the public notice requirements. Additionally, states may request that these amendments be made retroactively to March 1, 2020. The amendments requested under the waiver can be made effective for the duration of the national emergency. To offset the costs of these additional services, Congress passed the "[Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)," which increased the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) by 6.2% for the duration of the national emergency. Therefore, the federal government will cover a higher percentage of the costs of Medicaid, making it easier for states to implement these changes.

We urge you to reach out to your state officials to make sure they take advantage of this opportunity. Many regions and even entire states are under mandatory quarantine so states should not pass up this opportunity to assist in social distancing. In order to simplify the process NCPA has drafted a summary of CMS actions and a letter you can send to your state Medicaid director or other state officials.

Attached you will find :

- 1) **Summary of the CMS guidance (NCPA drafted)**
- 2) **Draft letter you can send your Medicaid agency urging them to apply for this waiver (NCPA drafted)**
- 3) **CMS Medicaid-disaster-relief-SPA template for Medicaid officials**
- 4) **Letter from CMS to state Medicaid directors**
- 5) **CMS press release on this initiative**

This is a great opportunity to help offset costs incurred by pharmacies as their delivery workloads have increase exponentially. NCPA has spoken numerous times with CMS about this issue of delivery in both Medicaid and Part D so we are encouraged that CMS is incentivizing states to provide these enhanced payments. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.