**CMS encourages states to cover home delivery services of prescription drugs under 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](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 or a supplemental payment for delivery 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](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. Therefore, the federal government will cover a higher percentage of the costs of Medicaid, thus offsetting the cost to the state making it easier for states to implement these changes.