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Update on Approval of Arizona's Medicaid Waiver Request

On January 18, 2019, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ("CMS") approved two major amendments to Arizona's Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System ("AHCCCS"). We want to explain what was approved and when the changes can start.

First, CMS approved the **work-related and reporting requirement waiver**. Under this waiver, certain adults between ages 19-49 must take part in qualifying work activities for at least 80 hours per month and report monthly that they are meeting the activities' requirement. We refer to this as the "work requirement." **This part of the waiver cannot be implemented before January 1, 2020, and there is a 3-month grace period to become compliant.** The *persons exempt include* pregnant women, former foster youth, persons with serious mental illness, persons on temporary or long-term disability, full time students, the homeless, victims of domestic violence, persons in treatment for substance disorders, Native American members of federally recognized tribes and persons participating in similar approved work or "community engagement" programs (such as TANF and SNAP). The *activities that satisfy the requirement* are employment, job search activities, community service, job or life skills training, employment readiness and health education classes.

Second, CMS approved the **waiver to eliminate 3-month retroactive eligibility**. The retroactive eligibility coverage provides medical coverage back 3 months from the date of application to persons otherwise eligible for Medicaid. With the waiver, the only persons who will get this coverage are children, pregnant women and women who had their child less than 60 days before the application. This part of the waiver **cannot be implemented before April 1, 2019.**

The William E. Morris Institute for Justice is the Arizona state partner with the National Health Law Program. We are reviewing these approvals against various legal requirements and exploring our options.

We will continue to give you updates. Please contact us if you have any questions.