



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Sept. 11, 2019

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Department of Health and Welfare seeks public comment on Section 1115 waiver for family planning referrals under Medicaid expansion

BOISE – The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) is requesting public comment through email, public hearings, and traditional mail regarding a draft Section 1115 waiver application for requiring family planning referrals in certain situations.

Public comments will be accepted through Oct. 12, and the department plans to submit the waiver application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as soon as possible after that date.

All public comments carry the same weight whether they are submitted at a hearing, or in email or by traditional mail.

The purpose of this waiver is to seek federal approval to require Medicaid participants, under certain circumstances, to obtain a referral from their primary care provider for family planning items and services.

State law and administrative rules mandate enrollment of non-exempt participants in a managed care plan, known as Healthy Connections, and also require Medicaid participants to select a primary care provider. The selection of this provider establishes the participant's medical home, which enables the primary care provider to manage and coordinate the patient's care.

The waiver provisions would apply to all enrollees in Healthy Connections seeking family planning services and supplies, and cannot be limited to a targeted subpopulation, such as the Medicaid Expansion adult group.

During the 2019 session, the Idaho state legislature passed Senate Bill 1204, which created a new subsection in state law — Section 56-263(3), Idaho Code — to require participants seeking family planning services and supplies outside the medical home to obtain a referral from the primary care provider. The intent of the demonstration is to determine whether monitoring and knowledge of external family planning services — by mandating referrals to family planning providers outside the participant’s chosen medical home — can help achieve better care coordination and improved health outcomes.

Read the department’s [comprehensive public notice](#), [tribal notice](#) and the [waiver application](#).

Public comments will be accepted through Oct. 12, 2019, and may be emailed to 1115_FamPlan@dhw.idaho.gov or mailed to:

Attention: Clay Lord
Medicaid Program Policy Analyst
Division of Medicaid
P.O. Box 83720; Boise, Idaho 83720-0009

Public hearings will be held at the following locations:

Monday, Sept. 16, 2019

Location: Medicaid Central Office, 3232 Elder St., Conference Room D, Boise; or call in to 1-877-820-7831, 301388#.
Time: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (Mountain Time)

Friday, Sept. 20, 2019

Location: Lincoln Auditorium (WW-02) in the Idaho State Capitol Building, 700 W. Jefferson St., Boise; or call in to 1-877-820-7831, 301388#
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Mountain Time)

For more information on Idaho Medicaid expansion, please visit <https://medicaidexpansion.idaho.gov/>