

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors, Long Term Home Health Care Program Coordinators

FROM: Mark Kissinger, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Long Term Care

SUBJECT: Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP) Extension

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Office of Long Term Care
Long Term Home Health Care Program
Doreen Sharp 518-474-5271
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The purpose of this GIS is to advise LDSS staff that the State has obtained a third extension through July 14, 2009 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to continue operating the current Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP) 1915 (c) home and community based Medicaid waiver. Resolving the use of post eligibility spousal impoverishment rules remains a critical concern for CMS in order to approve the waiver renewal application for the LTHHCP waiver.

During the period of operating the waiver under the extension, district staff should continue to accept and process applications for enrollment in the LTHHCP waiver using the current eligibility criteria for program.

District staff should advise individuals applying for the LTHHCP and individuals currently enrolled in the LTHHCP for whom current post eligibility spousal impoverishment rules were used to determine Medicaid eligibility, of the potential discontinuance of this methodology in the near future.

The Department continues to work with CMS on the LTHHCP waiver renewal application and other potential options to protect individuals at risk for spousal impoverishment and/or losing Medicaid eligibility when the statutory change becomes effective in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Doreen Sharp (LTHHCP) at the telephone number listed above.

We will advise LDSS staff of any further changes as they arise.