

November 30, 2012

Angela D. Garner  
Deputy Director  
Division of State Demonstrations & Waivers  
Department of Health & Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Garner:

I am writing in response to your November 15, 2012 letter to New York State Medicaid Director, Jason Helgerson, regarding the Department's request for a five year extension of New York's Partnership Plan section 1115 demonstration (Project Number 11-W-00114/2).

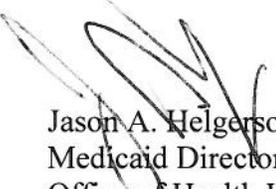
We appreciate Jessica Woodard and Andrea Casart of your office taking the time to review the statutory options for requesting an extension of the Partnership Plan and clarifying the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) response with our Waiver Management Team staff. The Team discussed the relative benefits of filing the extension request as an 1115(a), versus an 1115(e) used for renewals with no changes. The team was in agreement with CMS that the request would be more suitable filed as 1115(a) because of the impending subsequent changes that would be made to the Plan, including that the extension would continue essential components of New York's Partnership Plan that are scheduled to terminate in December of 2013.

It is our understanding that since this modification to our original Extension Application request to an 1115(a) is not a "significant or material change", that additional public notifications or hearings, as specified in the 42 CFR 431 subpart G Transparency Regulations, are not required.

Negotiations involving both the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) amendment (and the Hurricane Sandy amendment) to rebuild New York's health care infrastructure, are ongoing and may result in significant changes to the Partnership Plan. It is expected that New York State will take five years to fully implement its care management vision and to rebuild and restructure the health care delivery system. While the MRT (and Hurricane Sandy) amendments are not contained in the Partnership Plan extension application, the Department made clear to CMS and the public that the extension was necessary to implement major requested changes to the Plan.

The cooperation between the CMS and New York continues to be critical to the success of the Partnership Plan. We look forward to working closely with CMS. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jason A. Helgeson  
Medicaid Director  
Office of Health Insurance Programs

cc: Jessica Woodard, Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers  
Victoria Wachino, CMCS  
Michael Melendez, CMS New York Regional Office