

Notice of Request to Extend the TennCare II Demonstration

The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration is providing official notification, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1315(d) and 42 C.F.R. Part 431, Subpart G, concerning intent to file an application with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend the TennCare Demonstration.

TennCare is a Medicaid demonstration program that has operated under waivers of certain provisions of federal law since 1994, and that will expire on June 30, 2016. The principle being “demonstrated” by TennCare is that a state can organize its Medicaid program under a managed care model without spending more than the Medicaid program would have spent in the absence of the Demonstration and without compromising quality of care. A comprehensive description of the TennCare Demonstration is contained in the TennCare Operational Protocol, which is available on the TennCare website at <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tenncare/attachments/operationalprotocol.pdf>.

In order for the TennCare Demonstration to continue past the expiration date, the State must request an extension no later than December 31, 2015. The duration of the extension being requested is July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2021. The extension application will request continuation of all existing authorities and waivers, including two key provisions of the Demonstration currently scheduled to end on or before June 30, 2016: a waiver of retroactive eligibility for enrollees and an expenditure authority for certain hospital pool payments.

The full public notice associated with this extension request, including a comprehensive description of the requested extension, is available on the TennCare website at <http://tn.gov/tenncare/article/extension-of-tenncare-demonstration>.

As required by 42 CFR § 431, Subpart G, the Bureau is providing the following opportunities to the public to comment on the extension request in person:

- A public hearing on November 18, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. CT in the Auditorium of the Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street in Nashville.
- A public hearing on November 23, at 1:00 p.m. CT in Room 16 of Legislative Plaza, 301 6th Avenue North in Nashville.

Telephonic access to each hearing is available for individuals unable to attend in person. To register to participate in this hearing by telephone, please contact Jonathan Reeve by phone at (615) 507-6449 or by email at jonathan.reeve@tn.gov prior to the date of the hearing.

Individuals with disabilities or individuals with limited English proficiency who wish to participate in a hearing and who may require language or communication assistance to do so should contact Talley Olson of TennCare’s Office of Civil Rights Compliance by phone at (855) 857-1673 or by email at HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov prior to the date of the hearing.

Members of the public who prefer to submit written comments may send them by mail to Mr. Darin Gordon, Director, Bureau of TennCare, 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37243, or by email to public.notice.tennCare@tn.gov.

Copies of this notice will be available in each county office of the Tennessee Department of Health. The last day of the public comment period is December 14, 2015.

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