



Brian P. Kemp, Governor

Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

2 Peachtree Street, NW | Atlanta, GA 30303-3159 | 404-656-4507 | www.dch.georgia.gov

February 26, 2021

Dear Medicaid Waiver Providers:

The purpose of this message is to provide information about the status of the Medicaid Waiver Appendix K application (EDWP/ICWP and NOW/COMP) submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS.) As you are aware, DCH submitted an Appendix K application in response to the National Public Health Emergency (PHE). The Appendix K application outlines Georgia's emergency plan for its four Medicaid Waiver Programs: Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP), New Options Waiver Program (NOW), Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), and the Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program (EDWP). Each of these waiver programs authorizes the provision of home and community-based services. The Appendix K application, which can be found at www.dch.ga.gov, outlines the flexibilities and allowances previously approved by CMS. The current Appendix K will expire on February 28, 2021.

In anticipation of its expiration, DCH submitted a request to extend its current Appendix K application (EDWP/ICWP and NOW/COMP) through the end of the PHE, and up to six months after the end of the PHE to allow for a transition to pre-pandemic operations. We have also included a request to make certain modifications to the current program operations. While we have not yet received a formal approval notice from CMS, all discussions with CMS indicate that the extension request and the modifications will be approved.

Please note that per CMS' directive, the only modification not eligible for extension is the use of retainer payments. CMS stated in late 2020 that additional retainer payments will not be approved in this second year of the PHE.

Pending approval from CMS, we are asking all providers to continue to operate under the existing Appendix K flexibilities and allowances. DCH will notify all providers through both a banner message and through direct outreach to the provider associations of any updates. Again, the current Appendix K application may be accessed by logging onto www.dch.ga.gov (select the COVID-19 link, then select the "Appendix K" link).

Should you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Catherine Ivy at 404-651-6889 or catherine.ivy@dch.ga.gov. As always, we thank you for your continued service to Georgia waiver members during this difficult time.