



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

September 2, 2016

Dear Interested Parties:

Re: Solicitation of Comments on Medicaid Fee-for-Service Access Monitoring Review Plan

Recently the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published final rules designed to ensure that States' fee-for-service Medicaid payments comply with the access standard in Section 1902(a)(30)(A) of the Social Security Act (SSA). 80 Fed. Reg. 67,576 (Nov. 2, 2015). These rules added significant new procedural requirements for States.

These rules required States to develop "a medical assistance access monitoring review plan" to evaluate enrollees' access to certain Medicaid services. These access monitoring review plans, and all other requirements in the new rule, apply to fee-for-service Medicaid rates only and they specifically excluded any managed care populations or populations covered by a federal waiver program. This report is based upon 2015 calendar year data and is being used to establish a baseline for future monitoring review plans which Washington will submit for ongoing regulatory compliance.

On October 3, 2016, the Agency intends to submit its first Fee-for-Service Access Monitoring Review Plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as required by 42 C.F.R. § 447.203. This Plan must include an access monitoring analysis that considers:

- i. The extent to which beneficiary needs are fully met;
- ii. The availability of care through enrolled providers to beneficiaries in each geographic area, by provider type and site of service;
- iii. Changes in beneficiary utilization of covered services in each geographic area.
- iv. The characteristics of the beneficiary population (including considerations for care, service and payment variations for pediatric and adult populations and for individuals with disabilities); and
- v. Actual or estimated levels of provider payment available from other payers, including other public and private payers, by provider type and site of service.

A copy is available for review at <http://hca.wa.gov/assets/program/FFS-Access-Monitoring-Review-Plan-draft.pdf>.

The Agency would appreciate any input or concerns that you wish to share regarding this Plan. To return any comments, please contact Taylor Linke by telephone at 360-725-0913 or via email at [taylor.linke@hca.wa.gov](mailto:taylor.linke@hca.wa.gov) by September 30, 2016.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

Preston W. Cody  
Division Director, Medicaid Program Operations and Integrity

cc: Taylor Linke, Deputy Assistant Director, Medicaid Program Operations & Integrity