



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

June 16, 2017

Dear Valued Partners:

SUBJECT: Information about a Potential State Government Shutdown

We are writing to our partners who help administer the Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) Program and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program to share information about a potential state government shutdown if a 2017-19 state budget is not enacted by July 1, 2017.

Our intent is to continue covering services for Medicaid clients, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) clients, and PEBB Program members.

Medicaid and CHIP

- Although we would be unable to pay Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service providers or finalize premium payments for Medicaid managed care until a budget is passed, our expectation is that fee-for-service providers and Medicaid health plans will continue those services.
- You should see no change for clients covered under Medicaid managed care plans. The managed care plans would remain fully operational, and you should conduct business with them as usual.
- ProviderOne would remain operative for normal billing functions during this interim, including eligibility checks and payments for dates-of-service prior to July 1.
- For non-pharmaceutical services that require prior authorization but are medically necessary to prevent loss of limb or life, prior authorization will be waived. To bill for a service meeting this criteria, please clearly state in the comment field of the claim form "emergent/urgent service." Services that are not necessary to prevent loss of limb or life but normally require prior authorization need to be delayed until the budget is resolved.
- No customer service support would be available for Medicaid clients.

PEBB Program

- We expect our contracted PEBB Program plans to continue paying for services.
- No customer service support would be available for PEBB Program members.

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Our hope is that the budget will be enacted before July 1. However, we must plan for the unlikely event that a budget agreement cannot be reached. We will provide updates on our website at www.hca.wa.gov as frequently as they are needed through June 30.

Please share this information within your community. Our goal, as always, is to help ensure patient safety and access to care with your partnership. Thank you for your continued commitment to the health of Washington State.

Sincerely,



Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA
Director



Daniel Lessler, MD
Chief Medical Officer