

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Tuesday, March 2, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: CMS Releases Guidance Regarding Applicability of Federal Match Rates in Medicaid and CHIP

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a State Health Official (SHO) letter providing guidance related to the applicability of Federal match rates in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid.

The letter provides general guidance on sections 114 and 115 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA). These sections are related to the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate that a State may claim for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) expenditures. Section 114 specifies that the regular FMAP rate under title XIX will apply for expenditures for children in families with incomes in excess of 300 percent of the Federal poverty level. Section 115 gives States the option to claim expenditures for Medicaid expansion program populations, either at the enhanced FMAP rate using title XXI funds or at the regular FMAP rate using title XIX funds. The effective date for sections 114 and 115 was April 1, 2009.

The SHO letter can be viewed on the CMS website at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SMDL/SHO/list.asp>

If you have questions about this guidance, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Thank you