



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

200 Independence Avenue SW, 733H-02  
Washington, DC 20201

March 8, 2013

Commissioner Sandy Praeger  
Kansas Insurance Department  
420 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66612-1678

Dear Commissioner Praeger:

Thank you for your letter sharing your intent to undertake activities relating to the certification of the Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) that will be available to consumers beginning on October 1, 2013.

Specifically, you have attested that Kansas has the legal authority and operational capacity to conduct the plan management activities required to support certification of QHPs, as described in 45 CFR 155.1010(a). In addition, Kansas will perform all plan management activities listed in Section 4.0 of the Blueprint in time for the 2013 QHP selection process.

Finally, thank you for participating in the review with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to determine Kansas's operational plans and capacity to perform these functions. Following this one-day review, CMS will initiate a process under which it may rely on Kansas' recommended determinations that health plans meet QHP certification requirements.

Please note that this process may require a written understanding between Kansas and CMS in addition to any agreement under which section 1311(a) grant funds are provided. Assuming Kansas continues to act in accordance with your attestations CMS will continue to rely on Kansas's recommendations in certifying QHPs. CMS, however, will maintain its legal responsibility for ensuring that QHPs meet all QHP certification standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Cohen".

Gary Cohen, Director  
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight