



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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

March 8, 2013

Monica J. Lindeen
Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
840 Helena Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Commissioner Lindeen:

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 Montana 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, Montana 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 Montana'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 Montana's recommended determinations that health plans meet QHP certification requirements.

Please note that this process may require a written understanding between Montana and CMS in addition to any agreement under which section 1311(a) grant funds are provided. Assuming Montana continues to act in accordance with your attestations CMS will continue to rely on Montana'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