



*Administrator*  
Washington, DC 20201

April 16, 2021

Lynnette R. Rhodes  
Executive Director, Medical Assistance Plans  
Georgia Department of Community Health  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 36th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3159

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Georgia's section 1115 demonstration project entitled, "Georgia Postpartum Extension" (Project Number 11-W-00370/4), in accordance with section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act). Approval of this demonstration will enable the state to test the effects of extending full Medicaid state plan benefits to postpartum women with incomes up to 220 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) from 60 days to six months. The state also will provide continuous eligibility for a woman during the entire postpartum period, ensuring continuity of coverage. Through this approval, the state will receive expenditure authority to provide Resource Mothers Outreach services, which includes peer services in coordination with a nurse case manager. This new demonstration aims to increase and strengthen overall coverage and improve the health of certain mothers in Georgia, as well as reduce the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity in the state by addressing continuity of care for women postpartum. This approval is effective April 16, 2021, through March 31, 2026, upon which date, unless extended or otherwise amended, all authorities granted to operate this demonstration will expire.

Consistent with CMS requirements for all section 1115 demonstrations, and as outlined in the special terms and conditions (STCs), the state will undertake robust monitoring and evaluation of the demonstration. Throughout the life-cycle of the demonstration approval period, monitoring will support tracking the state's progress towards its demonstration goals, and we expect that such monitoring will accommodate new policy areas such as those approved with this new demonstration. Similarly, the state's evaluation design will ensure a thorough assessment of whether the demonstration initiatives are effective in producing the desired outcomes for beneficiaries, providers, and the Medicaid program overall.

CMS's approval of this section 1115(a) demonstration is subject to the limitations specified in the attached expenditure authorities and STCs; and any supplemental attachments defining the nature, character, and extent of federal involvement in this project. The state may deviate from Medicaid state plan requirements only to the extent those requirements have been specifically listed as waived or not applicable under the demonstration.

### *Consideration of Public Comments*

To increase the transparency of demonstration projects, sections 1115(d)(1) and (2) of the Act direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) to issue regulations providing for two periods of public comment on a state's application for a section 1115 demonstration that would result in an impact on eligibility, enrollment, benefits, cost-sharing, or financing. The first comment period occurs at the state level before submission of the section 1115 application, and the second comment period occurs at the federal level after the application is received by the Secretary.

Sections 1115(d)(2)(A) and (C) of the Act further specify that comment periods should be "sufficient to ensure a meaningful level of public input," but the statute imposed no additional requirement on the states or the Secretary to address those comments, as might otherwise be required under a general rulemaking. Accordingly, the implementing regulations issued in 2012 provide that CMS will review and consider all comments received by the deadline, but will not necessarily provide written responses to all public comments (42 CFR 431.416(d)(2)).

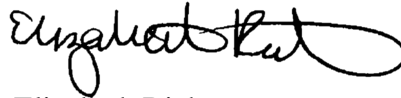
The federal public comment period opened on December 23, 2020 and closed on January 22, 2021. CMS received 16 comments regarding the application during the federal comment period. Thirteen of the commenters were in support of the proposed demonstration. Some of the comments encouraged the inclusion of mental health services and dental care, and five commenters encouraged extending postpartum coverage to 12 months instead of six and expanding Medicaid for adults under 133 percent of the FPL. Three of the comments were unrelated to the demonstration. The state legislation provides authority for a six-month extension of postpartum coverage, which includes full Medicaid benefits. Mental health and dental services are standard benefits for pregnant Medicaid recipients in Georgia. After careful review of the public comments submitted during the federal comment period and the information received from the state public comment period, CMS has concluded that the demonstration is likely to advance the objectives of Medicaid.

The award is subject to CMS receiving written acceptance of this award within 30 days of the date of this approval letter. Your project officer, Ms. Wanda Boone-Massey, is available to answer any questions concerning implementation of the state's section 1115(a) demonstration, and her contact information is as follows:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
Mail Stop S2-25-26  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850  
Email: [wanda.boone-massey@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:wanda.boone-massey@cms.hhs.gov)

We appreciate your state's commitment to improving the health of people in Georgia, and we look forward to our continued partnership on the Georgia Postpartum Extension section 1115(a) demonstration. If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Ms. Teresa DeCaro, Acting Director, State Demonstrations Group, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, at (410) 786-9686.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Richter", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Richter  
Acting Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Etta Hawkins, State Monitoring Lead, Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES  
EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY**

**NUMBER:** 11-W00370/4

**TITLE:** Georgia Postpartum Extension

**AWARDEE:** Georgia Department of Community Health

Under the authority of section 1115(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (“the Act”), expenditures made by Georgia for the items identified below, which are not otherwise included as expenditures under section 1903 of the Act shall, for the period from April 16, 2021 through March 31, 2026 unless otherwise specified, be regarded as expenditures under the state’s title XIX plan.

As discussed in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) approval letter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that the Georgia Postpartum Extension section 1115 (a) Medicaid demonstration, including the granting of the expenditure authority described below, is likely to assist in promoting the objectives of title XIX of the Act.

The following expenditure authority may only be implemented consistent with the approved Special Terms and Conditions (STC) and shall enable Georgia to operate the above-identified section 1115(a) demonstration.

1. **Expenditures for Benefits for Postpartum Women.** Expenditures for Medicaid state plan benefits to extend the postpartum eligibility period from 60 days to 6 months, as described in the STC 16.
2. **Expenditures for Continuous Eligibility for Postpartum Benefits.** Expenditures for individuals to remain enrolled in the Georgia Postpartum Extension who are initially determined eligible under the demonstration or a state plan group, but who no longer meet those income standards during any portion of the extended postpartum eligibility period as set forth in STC 16.
3. **Expenditures for Resource Mother Outreach Services.** Expenditures for Resource Mother Outreach Services as described in STC 18 for all individuals enrolled in the Georgia Postpartum Extension demonstration.
4. **Expenditures for the Suspension of Redeterminations until the End of the Extended Postpartum Period.** Expenditures necessary to suspend redeterminations with regard to changes in income and renewals required under section 1943 of the Act as implemented in 42 CFR § 435.916 that would have otherwise occurred at the end of the postpartum period, as described in the state plan, for women eligible in the state plan who enroll in the Georgia

Postpartum Extension until the end of the extended postpartum eligibility period as set forth in STC 16.

**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES  
SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**NUMBER:** 11-W00370/4

**TITLE:** Georgia Postpartum Extension

**AWARDEE:** Georgia Department of Community Health

**I. PREFACE**

The following are the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) for the Georgia Postpartum Extension section 1115(a) Medicaid demonstration (hereinafter “demonstration”), to enable the Georgia Department of Community Health (hereinafter “state”) to operate this demonstration. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has granted expenditure authorities authorizing federal matching of demonstration costs not otherwise matchable, which are separately enumerated. These STCs set forth conditions and limitations on those expenditure authorities, and describe in detail the nature, character, and extent of federal involvement in the demonstration and the state’s obligations to CMS related to the demonstration. These STCs neither grant additional expenditure authorities, nor expand upon those separately granted.

The STCs related to the programs for those populations affected by the demonstration are effective from April 16, 2021 through March 31, 2026, unless otherwise specified.

The STCs have been arranged into the following subject areas:

- I. Preface
- II. Program Description and Objectives
- III. General Program Requirements
- IV. Eligibility and Enrollment
- V. Demonstration Programs and Benefits
- VI. Cost Sharing
- VII. Delivery System
- VIII. General Reporting Requirements
- IX. Monitoring
- X. Evaluation of the Demonstration
- XI. General Financial Requirements Under Title XIX
- XII. Monitoring Budget Neutrality for the Demonstration
- XIII. Schedule of Deliverables for the Demonstration Period

Additional attachments have been included to provide supplementary information and guidance for specific STCs.

Attachment A: Developing the Evaluation Design

Attachment B: Preparing the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports

Attachment C: Evaluation Design (Reserved)

## **II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The State recognizes that maternal deaths are a serious public health concern with considerable short- and long-term individual, family, and societal impacts. The Georgia General Assembly in consultation with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and Georgia's Department of Public Health (DPH) crafted and advocated for the passage of H.B. 1114 during the 2020 legislative session. One of the primary provisions of the legislation is the focus of the Georgia Postpartum Extension section 1115(a) demonstration. The objective of the demonstration is to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage from a period of 60 days to 6 months. Through extending benefits during the postpartum period, the goal is to provide continuity of care that will ultimately reduce maternal morbidity and mortality.

## **III. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Compliance with Federal Non-Discrimination Statutes.** The state must comply with all applicable federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include, but are not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Section 1557).
2. **Compliance with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Law, Regulation, and Policy.** All requirements of the Medicaid and CHIP programs expressed in federal law, regulation, and policy statement, not expressly waived or identified as not applicable in the waiver and expenditure authority documents (of which these terms and conditions are part), apply to the demonstration.
3. **Changes in Medicaid and CHIP Law, Regulations, and Policy.** The state must, within the timeframes specified in federal law, regulation, or written policy, come into compliance with changes in law, regulation, or policy affecting the Medicaid or CHIP programs that occur during this demonstration approval period, unless the provision being changed is expressly waived or identified as not applicable. In addition, CMS reserves the right to amend the STCs to reflect such changes and/or changes as needed without requiring the state to submit an amendment to the demonstration under STC 7. CMS will notify the state 30 business days in advance of the expected approval date of the amended STCs to allow the state to provide comment. Changes will be considered in



force upon issuance of the approval letter by CMS. The state must accept the changes in writing.

**4. Impact on Demonstration of Changes in Federal Law, Regulation, and Policy.**

- a. To the extent that a change in federal law, regulation, or policy requires either a reduction or an increase in federal financial participation (FFP) for expenditures made under this demonstration, the state must adopt, subject to CMS's approval, a modified budget neutrality agreement for the demonstration as necessary to comply with such change, as well as a modified allotment neutrality worksheet as necessary to comply with such change. The trend rates for the budget neutrality agreement are not subject to change under this subparagraph. Further, the state may seek an amendment to the demonstration (as per STC 7 of this section) as a result of the change in FFP.
- b. If mandated changes in the federal law require state legislation, unless otherwise prescribed by the terms of the federal law, the changes must take effect on the earlier of the day such state legislation becomes effective, or on the last day such legislation was required to be in effect under the law, whichever is sooner.

**5. State Plan Amendments.** The state will not be required to submit title XIX or XXI state plan amendment (SPAs) for changes affecting any populations made eligible solely through the demonstration. If a population eligible through the Medicaid or CHIP state plan is affected by a change to the demonstration, a conforming amendment to the appropriate state plan is required, except as otherwise noted in these STCs. In all such cases, the Medicaid and CHIP state plans govern.

**6. Changes Subject to the Amendment Process.** Changes related to eligibility, enrollment, benefits, beneficiary rights, delivery systems, cost sharing, sources of non-federal share of funding, budget neutrality, and other comparable program elements must be submitted to CMS as amendments to the demonstration. All amendment requests are subject to approval at the discretion of the Secretary in accordance with section 1115 of the Act. The state must not implement changes to these elements without prior approval by CMS either through an approved amendment to the Medicaid or CHIP state plan or amendment to the demonstration. Amendments to the demonstration are not retroactive and no FFP of any kind, including for administrative or medical assistance expenditures, will be available under changes to the demonstration that have not been approved through the amendment process set forth in STC 7 below, except as provided in STC 3.

**7. Amendment Process.** Requests to amend the demonstration must be submitted to CMS for approval no later than 120 calendar days prior to the planned date of implementation of the change and may not be implemented until approved. CMS reserves the right to deny or delay approval of a demonstration amendment based on non-compliance with these STCs, including but not limited to the failure by the state to submit required elements of a complete amendment request as described in this STC, and failure by the

state to submit required reports and other deliverables according to the deadlines specified therein. Amendment requests must include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. An explanation of the public process used by the state, consistent with the requirements of STC 12. Such explanation must include a summary of any public feedback received and identification of how this feedback was addressed by the state in the final amendment request submitted to CMS;
  - b. A detailed description of the amendment, including impact on beneficiaries, with sufficient supporting documentation;
  - c. A data analysis which identifies the specific “with waiver” impact of the proposed amendment on the current budget neutrality agreement. Such analysis must include current total computable “with waiver” and “without waiver” status on both a summary and detailed level through the current approval period using the most recent actual expenditures, as well as summary and detailed projections of the change in the “with waiver” expenditure total as a result of the proposed amendment, which isolates (by Eligibility Group) the impact of the amendment;
  - d. An up-to-date CHIP allotment worksheet, if necessary;
  - e. The state must provide updates to existing demonstration reporting and quality and evaluation plans. This includes a description of how the evaluation design and annual progress reports will be modified to incorporate the amendment provisions, as well as the oversight, monitoring and measurement of the provisions.
8. **Extension of the Demonstration.** States that intend to request an extension of the demonstration must submit an application to CMS from the Governor or Chief Executive Officer of the state in accordance with the requirements of 42 CFR §431.412(c). States that do not intend to request an extension of the demonstration beyond the period authorized in these STCs must submit phase-out plan consistent with the requirements of STC 9.
9. **Demonstration Phase-Out.** The state may only suspend or terminate this demonstration in whole, or in part, consistent with the following requirements.
- a. Notification of Suspension or Termination: The state must promptly notify CMS in writing of the reason(s) for the suspension or termination, together with the effective date and a transition and phase-out plan. The state must submit a notification letter and a draft transition and phase-out plan to CMS no less than six months before the effective date of the demonstration’s suspension or termination. Prior to submitting the draft transition and phase-out plan to CMS, the state must publish on its website the draft transition and phase-out plan for a 30-day public comment period. In

- addition, the state must conduct tribal consultation in accordance with STC 12, if applicable. Once the 30-day public comment period has ended, the state must provide a summary of the issues raised by the public during the comment period and how the state considered the comments received when developing the revised transition and phase-out plan.
- b. Transition and Phase-out Plan Requirements: The state must include, at a minimum, in its phase-out plan the process by which it will notify affected beneficiaries, the content of said notices (including information on the beneficiary's appeal rights), the process by which the state will conduct redeterminations of Medicaid or CHIP eligibility prior to the termination of the demonstration for the affected beneficiaries, and ensure ongoing coverage for eligible beneficiaries, as well as any community outreach activities the state will undertake to notify affected beneficiaries, including community resources that are available.
  - c. Transition and Phase-out Plan Approval. The state must obtain CMS's approval of the transition and phase-out plan prior to the implementation of transition and phase-out activities. Implementation of transition and phase-out activities must be no sooner than 14 calendar days after CMS's approval of the transition and phase-out plan.
  - d. Transition and Phase-out Procedures: The state must re-determine eligibility for all affected beneficiaries in order to determine if they qualify for Medicaid eligibility under a different eligibility category prior to making a determination of ineligibility as required under 42 CFR 435.916(f)(1). For individuals determined ineligible for Medicaid and CHIP, the state must determine potential eligibility for other insurance affordability programs and comply with the procedures set forth in 42 CFR 435.1200(e). The state must comply with all applicable notice requirements found in 42 CFR, part 431 subpart E, including sections 431.206 through 431.214. In addition, the state must assure all applicable appeal and hearing rights are afforded to beneficiaries in the demonstration as outlined in 42 CFR, part 431 subpart E, including sections 431.220 and 431.221. If a beneficiary in the demonstration requests a hearing before the date of action, the state must maintain benefits as required in 42 CFR §431.230. In addition,
  - e. Exemption from Public Notice Procedures 42 CFR Section 431.416(g). CMS may expedite the federal and state public notice requirements under circumstances described in 42 CFR 431.416(g).
  - f. Enrollment Limitation during Demonstration Phase-Out. If the state elects to suspend, terminate, or not extend this demonstration, during the last six months of the demonstration, enrollment of new individuals into the demonstration must be suspended. The limitation of enrollment into the demonstration does not impact the state's obligation to determine Medicaid eligibility in accordance with the approved Medicaid state plan.

g. Federal Financial Participation (FFP). If the project is terminated or any relevant waivers are suspended by the state, FFP must be limited to normal closeout costs associated with the termination or expiration of the demonstration including services, continued benefits as a result of beneficiaries' appeals, and administrative costs of disenrolling beneficiaries.

10. **Withdrawal of Waiver or Expenditure Authority.** CMS reserves the right to withdraw waivers and/or expenditure authorities at any time it determines that continuing the waiver or expenditure authorities would no longer be in the public interest or promote the objectives of title XIX and title XXI. CMS will promptly notify the state in writing of the determination and the reasons for the withdrawal, together with the effective date, and afford the state an opportunity to request a hearing to challenge CMS' determination prior to the effective date. If a waiver or expenditure authority is withdrawn, FFP is limited to normal closeout costs associated with terminating the waiver or expenditure authority, including services, continued benefits as a result of beneficiary appeals, and administrative costs of disenrolling beneficiaries.

11. **Adequacy of Infrastructure.** The state will ensure the availability of adequate resources for implementation and monitoring of the demonstration, including education, outreach, and enrollment; maintaining eligibility systems; compliance with cost sharing requirements; and reporting on financial and other demonstration components.

12. **Public Notice, Tribal Consultation, and Consultation with Interested Parties.** The state must comply with the state notice procedures as required in 42 CFR 431.408 prior to submitting an application to extend the demonstration. For applications to amend the demonstration, the state must comply with the state notice procedures set forth in 59 Fed. Reg. 49249 (September 27, 1994) prior to submitting such request. The state must also comply with the Public Notice Procedures set forth in 42 CFR 447.205 for changes in statewide methods and standards for setting payment rates.

The state must also comply with tribal and Indian Health Program/Urban Indian Organization consultation requirements at section 1902(a)(73) of the Act, 42 CFR 431.408(b), State Medicaid Director Letter #01-024, or as contained in the state's approved Medicaid State Plan, when any program changes to the demonstration, either through amendment as set out in STC 7 or extension, are proposed by the state.

13. **Federal Financial Participation (FFP).** No federal matching funds for expenditures for this demonstration, including for administrative and medical assistance expenditures, will be available until the effective date identified in the demonstration approval letter, or if later, as expressly stated within these STCs.

14. **Administrative Authority.** When there are multiple entities involved in the administration of the demonstration, the Single State Medicaid Agency must maintain

authority, accountability, and oversight of the program. The State Medicaid Agency must exercise oversight of all delegated functions to operating agencies, MCOs, and any other contracted entities. The Single State Medicaid Agency is responsible for the content and oversight of the quality strategies for the demonstration.

15. **Common Rule Exemption.** The state must ensure that the only involvement of human subjects in research activities that may be authorized and/or required by this demonstration is for projects which are conducted by or subject to the approval of CMS, and that are designed to study, evaluate, or otherwise examine the Medicaid or CHIP program – including public benefit or service programs, procedures for obtaining Medicaid or CHIP benefits or services, possible changes in or alternatives to Medicaid or CHIP programs and procedures, or possible changes in methods or levels of payment for Medicaid benefits or services. CMS has determined that this demonstration as represented in these approved STCs meets the requirements for exemption from the human subject research provisions of the Common Rule set forth in 45 CFR 46.104(d)(5).

#### IV. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

16. **Eligibility Groups Affected by the Demonstration.** The state will extend postpartum coverage for women from 60 days to 6 months for:
  - a. Women enrolled in any Medicaid eligibility group who have household income up to 220 percent of the FPL and whose 60-day postpartum period is ending; and
  - b. Women who are within the 6-month postpartum period, were not enrolled in Georgia Medicaid, have household income up to 220 percent FPL and meet all other Medicaid eligibility criteria.

The state of Georgia will transition or enroll eligible postpartum women into the Georgia Postpartum Extension demonstration group until the end of the month in which the 6-month postpartum period ends. The women will remain enrolled continuously regardless of changes in income through the duration of the extended postpartum period. The state will integrate eligibility, verification, and redetermination processes for the Georgia Postpartum Extension demonstration group into the state's eligibility and enrollment system in accordance with section 1943 of the Act.

In advance of the end of the 6-month postpartum period, the state will conduct a redetermination of each beneficiary on all other bases of eligibility, consistent with 42 CFR 435.916.

#### V. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS

17. **Benefits.** Under this demonstration beneficiaries will receive all of the medically necessary covered Medicaid state plan benefits as set forth in section 1905(y)(2)(B) of the Act and in 42 CFR 433.204(a)(2) and described in the Medicaid state plan.

18. **Resource Mother Outreach.** All demonstration beneficiaries will also receive Resource Mothers Outreach which provides peer services in coordination with a nurse case manager. The Resource Mother Outreach provides a broad range of paraprofessional services to beneficiaries and their families. The Resource Mother Outreach performs certain aspects of case management including the provision of assistance in dealing with personal and social problems and may provide supportive counseling to beneficiaries and their families and/or serve as a liaison for social services. The Resource Mother Outreach benefit is part of the CMO PMPM capitated rate.

a. **Qualifications and Technical Competencies**

The CMOs will employ or contract with Resource Mothers who meet the following qualifications:

- High School diploma or GED with two-years' experience in social services related position or
- Bachelor's degree in a social services related field
- Valid Driver's license
- Reliable vehicle with motor vehicle insurance coverage
- Good communication skills

The Resource Mother must meet the Technical Competencies:

- Successfully complete Resource Mother training module and participate in ongoing in- service training as provided.
- Knowledge of agency policies and procedures.
- Ability to coordinate and organize the delivery services.
- Ability to interview clients and/or families using established techniques.
- Ability to develop client profile.
- Knowledge of agency confidentiality policies.
- Knowledge of state and federal confidentiality laws and regulations.
- Knowledge of available community resources.
- Ability to make appropriate referrals.
- Knowledge of crisis intervention
- Knowledge of what qualifies as an emergency situation.
- Ability to develop Georgia Postpartum Extension participant service plan to assist the participant in attaining social, educational and vocational goals.
- Ability to contact health care professionals to obtain additional background information.
- Knowledge of target population.
- Knowledge of agency specific software.

- Knowledge of available databases.
- Ability to prepare reports and case history records.
- Knowledge of eligibility requirements.
- Knowledge of what qualifies as an emergency situation.

**Training**

a. The CMOs have the responsibility for training the Resource Mother and must utilize the standardized Resource Mother training Manual specified by the state.

**b. Supervision**

CMOs using Resource Mother Outreach are required to provide supervision by a competent nurse case manager or similarly qualified program staff member. The amount duration and scope of supervision will vary depending on demonstrated competence and experience to provide peer support. The CMOs must ensure the Resource Mother Outreach is effective through monitoring of the Resource Mother’s performance including an evaluation of the Resource Mother’s Georgia Postpartum Extension participant contact activities and contact duration.

**c. Outreach**

Resource Mother Outreach must be coordinated within the contact of a comprehensive plan that addresses specific program goals of:

- i. Increase the beneficiary’s adoption of healthy behaviors such as healthy eating choices and smoking cessation;
- ii. Support the beneficiary’s compliance with primary care medical appointments, including assisting with arranging non-emergency medical transportation;
- iii. Assist the mother to obtain regular preventive health visits and appropriate immunizations for her child;
- iv. Support the beneficiary’s compliance with medications to treat chronic health conditions
- v. Assist with coordination of social services support; and,
- vi. Assist with linking beneficiaries to community resources such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

**VI. COST SHARING**

19. **Cost Sharing.** Cost sharing imposed upon individuals enrolled in the demonstration is consistent with the provisions of the approved state plan.

**VII. DELIVERY SYSTEM**

20. **Delivery System.** Services for beneficiaries receiving SSI will be provided through a fee-for-service delivery system. Services provided for all other beneficiaries enrolled in the demonstration are paid via a managed care delivery system via care management organizations (CMOs). CMO assignment/selection will follow the same process used outside this demonstration. Beneficiaries who are not enrolled in a CMO upon enrollment in the demonstration will be automatically enrolled into a CMO. Beneficiaries will then have a 90-day window to switch to a different plan if they choose to before being locked into their assigned plan.

## VIII. GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

21. **Deferral for Failure to Submit Timely Demonstration Deliverables.** CMS may issue deferrals in accordance with 42 CFR part 430 subpart C, in the amount of \$5,000,000 per deliverable (federal share) when items required by these STCs (e.g., required data elements, analyses, reports, design documents, presentations, and other items specified in these STCs) (hereafter singly or collectively referred to as “deliverable(s)”) are not submitted timely to CMS or are found to not be consistent with the requirements approved by CMS. A deferral shall not exceed the value of the federal amount for the current demonstration period. The state does not relinquish its rights provided under 42 CFR part 430 subpart C to challenge any CMS finding that the state materially failed to comply with the terms of this agreement.

The following process will be used: 1) Thirty (30) days after the deliverable was due if the state has not submitted a written request to CMS for approval of an extension as described in subsection (b) below; or 2) Thirty days after CMS has notified the state in writing that the deliverable was not accepted for being inconsistent with the requirements of this agreement and the information needed to bring the deliverable into alignment with CMS requirements:

- a. CMS will issue a written notification to the state providing advance notification of a pending deferral for late or non-compliant submissions of required deliverable(s).
- b. For each deliverable, the state may submit to CMS a written request for an extension to submit the required deliverable that includes a supporting rationale for the cause(s) of the delay and the state’s anticipated date of submission. Should CMS agree to the state’s request, a corresponding extension of the deferral process can be provided. CMS may agree to a corrective action plan submitted by the state as an interim step before applying the deferral, if the state proposes a corrective action plan in the state’s written extension request.
- c. If CMS agrees to an interim corrective plan in accordance with subsection (b), and the state fails to comply with the corrective action plan or, despite the corrective action plan, still fails to submit the overdue deliverable(s) with all required contents in satisfaction of the terms of this agreement, CMS may proceed with the issuance of



- a deferral against the next Quarterly Statement of Expenditures reported in Medicaid Budget and Expenditure System/State Children's Health Insurance Program Budget and Expenditure System (MBES/CBES) following a written deferral notification to the state.
- d. If the CMS deferral process has been initiated for state non-compliance with the terms of this agreement with respect to required deliverable(s), and the state submits the overdue deliverable(s), and such deliverable(s) are accepted by CMS as meeting the requirements specified in these STCs, the deferral(s) will be released.
  - e. As the purpose of a section 1115 demonstration is to test new methods of operation or service delivery, a state's failure to submit all required reports, evaluations and other deliverables will be considered by CMS in reviewing any application for an extension, amendment, or for a new demonstration.
22. **Submission of Post-approval Deliverables.** The state must submit all deliverables as stipulated by CMS and within the timeframes outlined within these STCs.
23. **Compliance with Federal Systems Updates.** As federal systems continue to evolve and incorporate additional 1115 demonstration reporting and analytics functions, the state will work with CMS to:
- a. Revise the reporting templates and submission processes to accommodate timely compliance with the requirements of the new systems;
  - b. Ensure all 1115, T-MSIS, and other data elements that have been agreed to for reporting and analytics are provided by the state; and
  - c. Submit deliverables to the appropriate system as directed by CMS.
24. **Monitoring Reports.** The state must submit three (3) Quarterly Monitoring Reports and one (1) Annual Report each DY. The fourth quarter information that would ordinarily be provided in a separate report should be reported as distinct information within the Annual Monitoring Report. The Quarterly Monitoring Reports are due no later than sixty (60) calendar days following the end of each demonstration quarter. The Annual Monitoring Report is due no later than ninety (90) calendar days following the end of the DY. The reports will include all required elements as per 42 CFR 431.428, and should not direct readers to links outside the report. Additional links not referenced in the document may be listed in a Reference/Bibliography section. The Monitoring Reports must follow the framework provided by CMS, which is subject to change as monitoring systems are developed/evolve, and be provided in a structured manner that supports federal tracking and analysis.

- a. Operational Updates. Per 42 CFR 431.428, the Monitoring Reports must document any policy or administrative difficulties in operating the demonstration. The reports shall provide sufficient information to document key challenges, underlying causes of challenges, how challenges are being addressed, as well as key achievements and to what conditions and efforts successes can be attributed. The discussion should also include any issues or complaints identified by beneficiaries; lawsuits or legal actions; unusual or unanticipated trends; legislative updates; and descriptions of any public forums held. The Monitoring Report should also include a summary of all public comments received through post-award public forums regarding the progress of the demonstration.
- b. Performance Metrics. The performance metrics will provide data to demonstrate how the state is progressing towards meeting the demonstration's goals, and must cover all key policies under this demonstration. Per 42 CFR 431.428, the Monitoring Reports must document the impact of the demonstration in providing insurance coverage to beneficiaries and the uninsured population, as well as outcomes of care, quality and cost of care, and access to care. This may also include the results of beneficiary satisfaction surveys, if conducted, and grievances and appeals. The monitoring and performance metrics must be included in the Monitoring Reports, and will follow the framework provided by CMS to support federal tracking and analysis.
- c. Budget Neutrality and Financial Reporting Requirements. Per 42 CFR 431.428, the Monitoring Reports must document the financial performance of the demonstration. The state must provide an updated budget neutrality workbook with every Monitoring Report that meets all the reporting requirements for monitoring budget neutrality set forth in the General Financial Requirements section of these STCs, including the submission of corrected budget neutrality data upon request. In addition, the state must report quarterly and annual expenditures associated with the populations affected by this demonstration on the Form CMS-64. Administrative costs for this demonstration should be reported separately on the CMS-64.
- d. Evaluation Activities and Interim Findings. Per 42 CFR 431.428, the Monitoring Reports must document any results of the demonstration to date per the evaluation hypotheses. Additionally, the state shall include a summary of the progress of evaluation activities, including key milestones accomplished, as well as challenges encountered and how they were addressed.

25. **Corrective Action Plan Related to Monitoring.** If monitoring indicates that demonstration features are not likely to assist in promoting the objectives of Medicaid, CMS reserves the right to require the state to submit a corrective action plan to CMS for approval. A state corrective action plan could include a temporary suspension of implementation of demonstration programs, in circumstances where monitoring data indicate substantial and sustained directional change inconsistent with demonstration goals, such as substantial and sustained trends indicating increased difficulty accessing

services. A corrective action plan may be an interim step to withdrawing waivers or expenditure authorities, as outlined in STC 10. CMS will withdraw an authority, as described in STC 10, when metrics indicate substantial and sustained directional change inconsistent with the state's demonstration goals, and the state has not implemented corrective action. CMS further has the ability to suspend implementation of the demonstration should corrective actions not effectively resolve these concerns in a timely manner.

26. **Close-Out Report.** Within 120 calendar days after the expiration of the demonstration, the state must submit a draft Close-Out Report to CMS for comments.
  - a. The draft Close-Out report must comply with the most current guidance from CMS.
  - b. The state will present to and participate in a discussion with CMS on the Close-Out report.
  - c. The state must take into consideration CMS's comments for incorporation into the final Close-Out report.
  - d. The final Close-Out report is due to CMS no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of CMS's comments.
  - e. A delay in submitting the draft or final version of the Close-Out report may subject the state to penalties described in STC 10.
  
27. **Monitoring Calls.** CMS will convene periodic conference calls with the state.
  - a. The purpose of these calls is to discuss ongoing demonstration operation, to include (but not limited to) any significant actual or anticipated developments affecting the demonstration. Examples include implementation activities, trends in reported data on metrics and associated mid-course adjustments, enrollment and access, budget neutrality, and progress on evaluation activities.
  - b. CMS will provide updates on any pending actions, as well as federal policies and issues that may affect any aspect of the demonstration.
  - c. The state and CMS will jointly develop the agenda for the calls.
  
28. **Post Award Forum.** Pursuant to 42 CFR 431.420(c), within six (6) months of the demonstration's implementation, and annually thereafter, the state must afford the public with an opportunity to provide meaningful comment on the progress of the demonstration. At least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the planned public forum, the state must publish the date, time and location of the forum in a prominent location on its website. The state must also post the most recent annual report on its website with the

public forum announcement. Pursuant to 42 CFR 431.420(c), the state must include a summary of the comments in the Monitoring Report associated with the quarter in which the forum was held, as well as in its compiled Annual Monitoring Report.

## **IX. EVALUATION OF THE DEMONSTRATION**

29. **Cooperation with Federal Evaluators.** As required under 42 CFR 431.420(f), the state must cooperate fully and timely with CMS and its contractors in any federal evaluation of the demonstration or any component of the demonstration. This includes, but is not limited to, commenting on design and other federal evaluation documents and providing data and analytic files to CMS, including entering into a data use agreement that explains how the data and data files will be exchanged, and providing a technical point of contact to support specification of the data and files to be disclosed, as well as relevant data dictionaries and record layouts. The state shall include in its contracts with entities who collect, produce or maintain data and files for the demonstration, that they must make such data available for the federal evaluation as is required under 42 CFR 431.420(f) to support federal evaluation. The state may claim administrative match for these activities. Failure to comply with this STC may result in a deferral being issued as outlined in STC 21.
30. **Draft Evaluation Design.** The state must submit, for CMS comment and approval, a draft Evaluation Design, no later than 180 calendar days after approval of the demonstration. The draft Evaluation Design must be developed in accordance with Attachment A (Developing the Evaluation Design) of these STCs, and any applicable CMS technical assistance on applying robust evaluation approaches, including establishing appropriate comparison groups and assuring causal inferences in demonstration evaluations.
31. **Evaluation Budget.** A budget for the evaluations must be provided with the draft Evaluation Design. It will include the total estimated cost, as well as a breakdown of estimated staff, administrative and other costs for all aspects of the evaluations such as any survey and measurement development, quantitative and qualitative data collection and cleaning, analyses and report generation. A justification of the costs may be required by CMS if the estimates provided do not appear to sufficiently cover the costs of the design or if CMS finds that the designs are not sufficiently developed, or if the estimates appear to be excessive.
32. **Evaluation Design Approval and Updates.** The state must submit the revised draft Evaluation Design within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of CMS's comments. Upon CMS's approval of the draft Evaluation Design, the documents will be included as an attachment to these STCs. Per 42 CFR 431.424(c), the state will publish the approved Evaluation Design to the state's website within thirty (30) calendar days of CMS's approval. The state must implement the Evaluation Design and submit a description of its evaluation implementation progress in each of the Monitoring Reports, including any

required Rapid Cycle Assessments specified in these STCs. Once CMS approves the Evaluation Design, if the state wishes to make changes, the state must submit a revised Evaluation Design to CMS for approval if the changes are substantial in scope; otherwise, in consultation with CMS, the state may include updates to the Evaluation Design in monitoring reports

33. **Evaluation Questions and Hypotheses.** Consistent with Attachments A and B (Developing the Evaluation Design and Preparing the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports) of these STCs, the evaluation documents must include a discussion of the evaluation questions and hypotheses that the state intends to test. The evaluation must outline and address well-crafted hypotheses and research questions for all key demonstration policy components that support understanding the demonstration's impact and its effectiveness in achieving the goals. The state must also investigate cost outcomes for the demonstration as a whole, including but not limited to: administrative costs of demonstration implementation and operation and Medicaid health service expenditures.

The hypothesis testing should include, where possible, assessment of both process and outcome measures. Proposed measures should be selected from nationally-recognized sources and national measures sets, where possible. Measures sets could include CMS's Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Children in Medicaid and CHIP, Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems (CAHPS), the Initial Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid-Eligible Adults, and/or measures endorsed by National Quality Forum (NQF).

34. **Interim Evaluation Report.** The state must submit an Interim Evaluation Report for the completed years of the demonstration, and for each subsequent renewal or extension of the demonstration, as outlined in 42 CFR 431.412(c)(2)(vi). When submitting an application for renewal, the Evaluation Reports should be posted to the state's website with the application for public comment.

- a. The Interim Evaluation Report will discuss evaluation progress and present findings to date as per the approved evaluation design.
- b. For demonstration authority that expires prior to the overall demonstration's expiration date, the Interim Evaluation Report must include an evaluation of the authority as approved by CMS.
- c. If the state is seeking to renew or extend the demonstration, the draft Interim Evaluation Report is due when the application for renewal is submitted. If the state made changes to the demonstration in its application for renewal, the research questions and hypotheses and a description of how the design was adapted should be included. If the state is not requesting a renewal for the demonstration, the Interim Evaluation Report is due one (1) year prior to the end of the demonstration. For demonstration phase outs prior to the expiration of the approval period, the draft

- Interim Evaluation Report is due to CMS on the date that will be specified in the notice of termination or suspension.
- d. The state must submit a revised Interim Evaluation Report sixty (60) calendar days after receiving CMS's comments on the draft Interim Evaluation Report. Once approved by CMS, the state must post the final Interim Evaluation Report to the state's website.
  - e. The Interim Evaluation Report must comply with Attachment B (Preparing the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports) of these STCs.
35. **Summative Evaluation Report.** The draft Summative Evaluation Report must be developed in accordance with Attachment B (Preparing the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports) of these STCs. The state must submit the draft Summative Evaluation Report for the demonstration's current approval period within eighteen (18) months of the end of the approval period represented by these STCs. The Summative Evaluation Report must include the information in the approved Evaluation Design.
- a. Unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by CMS, the state must submit a revised Summative Evaluation Report within sixty (60) calendar days of receiving comments from CMS on the draft.
  - b. Upon approval from CMS, the final Summative Evaluation Report must be posted to the state's Medicaid website within thirty (30) calendar days of approval by CMS.
36. **Corrective Action Plan Related to Evaluation.** If evaluation findings indicate that demonstration features are not likely to assist in promoting the objectives of Medicaid, CMS reserves the right to require the state to submit a corrective action plan to CMS for approval. These discussions may also occur as part of a renewal process when associated with the state's Interim Evaluation Report. A state corrective action plan could include a temporary suspension of implementation of demonstration programs, in circumstances where evaluation findings indicate substantial and sustained directional change inconsistent with demonstration goals, such as substantial and sustained trends indicating increased difficulty accessing services. A corrective action plan may be an interim step to withdrawing waivers or expenditure authorities, as outlined in STC 10. CMS further has the ability to suspend implementation of the demonstration should corrective actions not effectively resolve these concerns in a timely manner.
37. **State Presentations for CMS.** CMS reserves the right to request that the state present and participate in a discussion with CMS on the Evaluation Design, the Interim Evaluation Report, and/or the Summative Evaluation Report.
38. **Public Access.** The state shall post the final documents (e.g., Monitoring Reports, Close-out Report, the approved Evaluation Design, Interim Evaluation Reports, and Summative

Evaluation Reports) on the state's website within thirty (30) calendar days of approval by CMS.

39. **Additional Publications and Presentations.** For a period of twelve (12) months following CMS's approval of the final reports, CMS will be notified prior to presentation of these reports or their findings, including in related publications (including, for example, journal articles), by the state, contractor, or any other third party directly connected to the demonstration. Prior to release of these reports, articles or other publications, CMS will be provided a copy including any associated press materials. CMS will be given ten (10) business days to review and comment on publications before they are released. CMS may choose to decline to comment on or review some or all of these notifications and reviews. This requirement does not apply to the release or presentation of these materials to state or local government officials.

## **X. GENERAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER TITLE XIX**

40. **Standard Medicaid Funding Process.** The standard Medicaid funding process will be used for this demonstration. The state will provide quarterly expenditure reports through the Medicaid and CHIP Budget and Expenditure System (MBES/CBES) to report total expenditures for services provided under this demonstration following routine CMS-37 and CMS-64 reporting instructions as outlined in section 2500 of the State Medicaid Manual. The state will estimate matchable demonstration expenditures (total computable and federal share) subject to the budget neutrality expenditure limit and separately report these expenditures by quarter for each federal fiscal year on the form CMS-37 for both the medical assistance payments (MAP) and state and local administration costs (ADM). CMS shall make federal funds available based upon the state's estimate, as approved by CMS. Within thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter, the state shall submit form CMS-64 Quarterly Medicaid Expenditure Report, showing Medicaid expenditures made in the quarter just ended. If applicable, subject to the payment deferral process, CMS shall reconcile expenditures reported on form CMS-64 with federal funding previously made available to the state, and include the reconciling adjustment in the finalization of the grant award to the state.
41. **Extent of Federal Financial Participation for the Demonstration.** Subject to CMS's approval of the source(s) of the non-federal share of funding, CMS will provide FFP at the applicable federal matching rate for the demonstration as a whole for the following, subject to the budget neutrality expenditure limits described in section XI:
- a. Administrative costs, including those associated with the administration of the demonstration;
  - b. Net expenditures and prior period adjustments of the Medicaid program that are paid in accordance with the approved Medicaid state plan; and

- c. Medical assistance expenditures and prior period adjustments made under section 1115 demonstration authority with dates of service during the demonstration extension period; including those made in conjunction with the demonstration, net of enrollment fees, cost sharing, pharmacy rebates, and all other types of third party liability.

**42. Sources of Non-Federal Share.** As a condition of demonstration approval, the state certifies that the non-federal share is obtained from permissible state and/or local funds that, unless permitted by law, are not other federal funds. The state further certifies that such funds must not be used to match any other federal grant or contract, except as permitted by law. CMS's approval of this demonstration does not constitute direct or indirect approval of any underlying source of non-federal share or associated funding mechanisms and all sources of non-federal funding must be compliant with section 1903(w) of the Act and applicable regulations. In addition, CMS reserves the right to prohibit the use of any sources of non-federal share funding that it determines impermissible.

- a. If requested, the state must submit for CMS review and approval documentation of any sources of non-federal share that would be used to fund the demonstration.
- b. If CMS determines that any funding sources are not consistent with applicable federal regulations, the state must address CMS's concerns within the time frames allotted by CMS.
- c. Without limitation, CMS may request information about the non-federal share sources for any amendments that CMS determines may financially impact the demonstration.

**43. State Certification of Funding Conditions.** The state must certify that the following conditions for non-federal share of demonstration expenditures are met:

- a. Units of government, including governmentally operated health care providers, may certify that state or local monies have been expended as the non-federal share of funds under the demonstration.
- b. To the extent the state utilizes certified public expenditures (CPE) as the funding mechanism for the state share of title XIX payments, including expenditures authorized under a section 1115 demonstration, CMS must approve a cost reimbursement methodology. This methodology must include a detailed explanation of the process by which the state would identify those costs eligible under title XIX (or under section 1115 authority) for purposes of certifying public expenditures.
- c. To the extent the state utilizes CPEs as the funding mechanism to claim federal match for expenditures under the demonstration, governmental entities to which general



revenue funds are appropriated must certify to the state the amount of such state or local monies that are allowable under 42 CFR 433.51 to satisfy demonstration expenditures. If the CPE is claimed under a Medicaid authority, the federal matching funds received cannot then be used as the state share needed to receive other federal matching funds under 42 CFR 433.51(c). The entities that incurred the cost must also provide cost documentation to support the state's claim for federal match.

- d. The state may use intergovernmental transfers (IGT) to the extent that such funds are derived from state or local monies and are transferred by units of government within the state. Any transfers from governmentally operated health care providers must be made in an amount not to exceed the non-federal share of title XIX payments.
- e. Under all circumstances, health care providers must retain 100 percent of the reimbursement for claimed expenditures. Moreover, consistent with 42 CFR 447.10, no pre-arranged agreements (contractual, voluntary, or otherwise) may exist between health care providers and state and/or local government to return and/or redirect to the state any portion of the Medicaid payments. This confirmation of Medicaid payment retention is made with the understanding that payments that are the normal operating expenses of conducting business, such as payments related to taxes, including health care provider-related taxes, fees, business relationships with governments that are unrelated to Medicaid and in which there is no connection to Medicaid payments, are not considered returning and/or redirecting a Medicaid payment.

**44. Financial Integrity for Managed Care and Other Delivery Systems.** As a condition of demonstration approval, the state attests to the following, as applicable:

- a. All risk-based managed care organization, prepaid inpatient health plan (PIHP), and prepaid ambulatory health plan (PAHP) payments, comply with the requirements on payments in 42 CFR §438.6(b)(2), 438.6(c), 438.6(d), 438.60 and/or 438.74.
- b. For non-risk-based PIHPs and PAHPs, arrangements comply with the upper payment limits specified in 42 CFR §447.362, and if payments exceed the cost of services, the state will recoup the excess and return the federal share of the excess to CMS.

**45. Requirements for health care related taxes and provider donations.** As a condition of demonstration approval, the state attests to the following, as applicable:

- a. All health care-related taxes as defined by Section 1903 (w)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR § 433.55 are broad-based as defined by Section 1903 (w)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR § 433.68 (c).
- b. All health care-related taxes are uniform as defined by Section 1903 (w)(3)(C) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR § 433.68 (d).

- c. If the health care-related tax is either not broad-based or not uniform, the state has applied for and received a waiver of the broad-based and/or uniformity requirements as specified by 1903 (w)(3)(E)(i) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR § 433.72.
- d. The tax does not contain a hold harmless arrangement as described by Section 1903 (w)(4) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR § 433.68 (f).
- e. All provider related-donations as defined by 42 CFR § 433.52 are bona fide as defined by Section 1903 (w)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 CFR § 433.66, and 42 CFR § 433.54.

46. **Program Integrity.** The state must have processes in place to ensure there is no duplication of federal funding for any aspect of the demonstration. The state must also ensure that the state and any of its contractors follow standard program integrity principles and practices including retention of data. All data, financial reporting, and sources of non-federal share are subject to audit.

47. **Medicaid Expenditure Groups (MEG).** Medicaid Expenditure Groups (MEG) are defined for the purpose of identifying categories of Medicaid or demonstration expenditures subject to budget neutrality, components of budget neutrality expenditure limit calculations, and other purposes related to monitoring and tracking expenditures under the demonstration. The Master MEG Chart table provides a master list of MEGs defined for this demonstration.

Table 1: Master MEG Chart					
MEG	To Which BN Test Does This Apply?	WOW Per Capita	WOW Aggregate	WW	Brief Description
Postpartum Women	Hypo	X		X	

48. **Reporting Expenditures and Member Months.** The state must report all demonstration expenditures claimed under the authority of title XIX of the Act and subject to budget neutrality each quarter on separate forms CMS-64.9 WAIVER and/or 64.9P WAIVER, identified by the demonstration project number assigned by CMS (11-W-00381). Separate reports must be submitted by MEG (identified by Waiver Name) and Demonstration Year (identified by the two-digit project number extension). Unless specified otherwise, expenditures must be reported by DY according to the dates of service associated with the expenditure. All MEGs identified in the Master MEG Chart as WW must be reported for expenditures, as further detailed in the MEG Detail for Expenditure and Member Month Reporting table below. To enable calculation of the budget neutrality expenditure limits, the state also must report member months of eligibility for specified MEGs.

- a. Cost Settlements. The state will report any cost settlements attributable to the demonstration on the appropriate prior period adjustment schedules (form CMS-64.9P WAIVER) for the summary sheet line 10b, in lieu of lines 9 or 10c. For any cost settlement not attributable to this demonstration, the adjustments should be reported as otherwise instructed in the State Medicaid Manual. Cost settlements must be reported by DY consistent with how the original expenditures were reported.
- b. Premiums and Cost Sharing Collected by the State. The state will report any premium contributions collected by the state from demonstration enrollees quarterly on the form CMS-64 Summary Sheet line 9D, columns A and B. In order to assure that these collections are properly credited to the demonstration, quarterly premium collections (both total computable and federal share) should also be reported separately by DY on form CMS-64 Narrative, and on the Total Adjustments tab in the Budget Neutrality Monitoring Tool. In the annual calculation of expenditures subject to the budget neutrality expenditure limit, premiums collected in the demonstration year will be offset against expenditures incurred in the demonstration year for determination of the state's compliance with the budget neutrality limits.
- c. Pharmacy Rebates. Because pharmacy rebates are not included in the base expenditures used to determine the budget neutrality expenditure limit, pharmacy rebates are not included for calculating net expenditures subject to budget neutrality. The state will report pharmacy rebates on form CMS-64.9 BASE, and not allocate them to any form 64.9 or 64.9P WAIVER.
- d. Administrative Costs. The state will separately track and report additional administrative costs that are directly attributable to the demonstration. All administrative costs must be identified on the forms CMS-64.10 WAIVER and/or 64.10P WAIVER. Unless indicated otherwise on the Master MEG Chart table, administrative costs are not counted in the budget neutrality tests; however, these costs are subject to monitoring by CMS.
- e. Member Months. As part of the Quarterly and Annual Monitoring Reports described in section IX, the state must report the actual number of “eligible member months” for all demonstration enrollees for all MEGs identified as WOW Per Capita in the Master MEG Chart table above, and as also indicated in the MEG Detail for Expenditure and Member Month Reporting table below. The term “eligible member months” refers to the number of months in which persons enrolled in the demonstration are eligible to receive services. For example, a person who is eligible for three months contributes three eligible member months to the total. Two individuals who are eligible for two months, each contribute two eligible member months, for a total of four eligible member months. The state must submit a statement accompanying the annual report certifying the accuracy of this information.

- f. Budget Neutrality Specifications Manual. The state will create and maintain a Budget Neutrality Specifications Manual that describes in detail how the state will compile data on actual expenditures related to budget neutrality, including methods used to extract and compile data from the state's Medicaid Management Information System, eligibility system, and accounting systems for reporting on the CMS-64, consistent with the terms of the demonstration. The Budget Neutrality Specifications Manual will also describe how the state compiles counts of Medicaid member months. The Budget Neutrality Specifications Manual must be made available to CMS on request.

**Table 2: MEG Detail for Expenditure and Member Month Reporting**

MEG (Waiver Name)	Detailed Description	CMS-64.9 Line(s) To Use	How Expend. Assigned to DY	MAP or ADM	Report Member Months (Y/N)	MEG Start Date	MEG End Date
Postpartum Women	The expenditures associated with Targeted Benefits for Postpartum Women beyond the 60-day postpartum period.	Follow CMS-64.9 Base Category of Service Definition	Date of service	MAP	Y	7/1/2021	6/30/2025

49. **Demonstration Years.** Demonstration Years (DY) for this demonstration are defined in the Demonstration Years table below.

**Table 3: Demonstration Years**

Demonstration Year 1	April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022	12 months
Demonstration Year 2	April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023	12 months
Demonstration Year 3	April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024	12 months
Demonstration Year 4	April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025	12 months
Demonstration Year 5	April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026	12 months

50. **Budget Neutrality Monitoring Tool.** The state must provide CMS with quarterly budget neutrality status updates, including established baseline and member months data, using the Budget Neutrality Monitoring Tool provided through the Performance Metrics Database and Analytics (PMDA) system. The tool incorporates the “Schedule C Report” for comparing demonstration’s actual expenditures to the budget neutrality expenditure limits described in section XI. CMS will provide technical assistance, upon request.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 42 CFR §431.420(a)(2) provides that states must comply with the terms and conditions of the agreement between the Secretary (or designee) and the state to implement a demonstration project, and §431.420(b)(1) states that the terms and conditions will provide that the state will perform periodic reviews of the

51. **Claiming Period.** The state will report all claims for expenditures subject to the budget neutrality agreement (including any cost settlements) within two years after the calendar quarter in which the state made the expenditures. All claims for services during the demonstration period (including any cost settlements) must be made within two years after the conclusion or termination of the demonstration. During the latter two-year period, the state will continue to identify separately net expenditures related to dates of service during the operation of the demonstration on the CMS-64 waiver forms in order to properly account for these expenditures in determining budget neutrality.

52. **Future Adjustments to Budget Neutrality.** CMS reserves the right to adjust the budget neutrality expenditure limit:

- a. To be consistent with enforcement of laws and policy statements, including regulations and letters, regarding impermissible provider payments, health care related taxes, or other payments, CMS reserves the right to make adjustments to the budget neutrality limit if any health care related tax that was in effect during the base year, or provider-related donation that occurred during the base year, is determined by CMS to be in violation of the provider donation and health care related tax provisions of section 1903(w) of the Act. Adjustments to annual budget targets will reflect the phase out of impermissible provider payments by law or regulation, where applicable.
- b. To the extent that a change in federal law, regulation, or policy requires either a reduction or an increase in FFP for expenditures made under this demonstration. In this circumstance, the state must adopt, subject to CMS's approval, a modified budget neutrality agreement as necessary to comply with such change. The modified agreement will be effective upon the implementation of the change. The trend rates for the budget neutrality agreement are not subject to change under this STC. The state agrees that if mandated changes in the federal law require state legislation, the changes shall take effect on the day such state legislation becomes effective, or on the last day such legislation was required to be in effect under the federal law.
- c. The state certifies that the data it provided to establish the budget neutrality expenditure limit are accurate based on the state's accounting of recorded historical expenditures or the next best available data, that the data are allowable in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, and policies, and that the data are correct to the best of the state's knowledge and belief. The data supplied by the state to set the budget neutrality expenditure limit are subject to review and audit, and if found to be inaccurate, will result in a modified budget neutrality expenditure limit.

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implementation of the demonstration. CMS's current approach is to include language in STCs requiring, as a condition of demonstration approval, that states provide, as part of their periodic reviews, regular reports of the actual costs which are subject to the budget neutrality limit. CMS has obtained Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the monitoring tool under the Paperwork Reduction Act (OMB Control No. 0938 – 1148) and in states agree to use the tool as a condition of demonstration approval.

## **XI. MONITORING BUDGET NEUTRALITY FOR THE DEMONSTRATION**

53. **Limit on Title XIX Funding.** The state will be subject to limits on the amount of federal Medicaid funding the state may receive over the course of the demonstration approval. The budget neutrality expenditure limits are based on projections of the amount of FFP that the state would likely have received in the absence of the demonstration. The limit may consist of a Main Budget Neutrality Test, and one or more Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Tests, as described below. CMS's assessment of the state's compliance with these tests will be based on the Schedule C CMS-64 Waiver Expenditure Report, which summarizes the expenditures reported by the state on the CMS-64 that pertain to the demonstration.
54. **Risk.** The budget neutrality expenditure limits are determined on either a per capita or aggregate basis. If a per capita method is used, the state is at risk for the per capita cost of state plan and hypothetical populations, but not for the number of participants in the demonstration population. By providing FFP without regard to enrollment in the demonstration for all demonstration populations, CMS will not place the state at risk for changing economic conditions; however, by placing the state at risk for the per capita costs of the demonstration populations, CMS assures that the demonstration expenditures do not exceed the levels that would have been realized had there been no demonstration. If an aggregate method is used, the state accepts risk for both enrollment and per capita costs.
55. **Calculation of the Budget Neutrality Limits and How They Are Applied.** To calculate the budget neutrality limits for the demonstration, separate annual budget limits are determined for each DY on a total computable basis. Each annual budget limit is the sum of one or more components: per capita components, which are calculated as a projected without-waiver PMPM cost times the corresponding actual number of member months, and aggregate components, which project fixed total computable dollar expenditure amounts. The annual limits for all DYs are then added together to obtain a budget neutrality limit for the entire demonstration period. The federal share of this limit will represent the maximum amount of FFP that the state may receive during the demonstration period for the types of demonstration expenditures described below. The federal share will be calculated by multiplying the total computable budget neutrality expenditure limit by the appropriate Composite Federal Share.
56. **Main Budget Neutrality Test.** This demonstration does not include a Main Budget Neutrality Test. Budget neutrality will consist entirely of Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Tests. Any excess spending under the Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Tests must be returned to CMS.
57. **Hypothetical Budget Neutrality.** When expenditure authority is provided for coverage of populations or services that the state could have otherwise provided through its Medicaid state plan or other title XIX authority (such as a waiver under section 1915 of

the Act), CMS considers these expenditures to be “hypothetical;” that is, the expenditures would have been eligible to receive FFP elsewhere in the Medicaid program. For these hypothetical expenditures, CMS makes adjustments to the budget neutrality test which effectively treats these expenditures as if they were for approved Medicaid state plan services. Hypothetical expenditures, therefore, do not necessitate savings to offset the otherwise allowable services. This approach reflects CMS’s current view that states should not have to “pay for,” with demonstration savings, costs that could have been otherwise eligible for FFP under a Medicaid state plan or other title XIX authority; however, when evaluating budget neutrality, CMS does not offset non-hypothetical expenditures with projected or accrued savings from hypothetical expenditures. That is, savings are not generated from a hypothetical population or service. To allow for hypothetical expenditures, while preventing them from resulting in savings, CMS currently applies a separate, independent Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Tests, which subject hypothetical expenditures to pre-determined limits to which the state and CMS agree, and that CMS approves, as a part of this demonstration approval. If the state’s WW hypothetical spending exceeds the supplemental test’s expenditure limit, the state agrees (as a condition of CMS’s approval) to offset that excess spending by savings elsewhere in the demonstration or to refund the FFP to CMS.

- a. **Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Test: Postpartum Women.** The table below identifies the MEGs that are used for Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Test. MEGs that are designated “WOW Only” or “Both” are the components used to calculate the budget neutrality expenditure limit. The Composite Federal Share for the Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Test is calculated based on all MEGs indicated as “WW Only” or “Both.” MEGs that are indicated as “WW Only” or “Both” are counted as expenditures against this budget neutrality expenditure limit. Any expenditures in excess of the limit from Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Test are counted as WW expenditures under the Main Budget Neutrality Test.

**Table 4: Main Budget Neutrality Test**

MEG	PC or Agg*	WOW Only, WW Only, or Both	BASE YEAR [define]	TRE ND	DY 1	DY 2	DY 3	DY 4	DY 5
Postpartum Women	PC	Both	\$358.17	3.0%	\$368.92	\$379.98	\$391.38	\$403.12	\$415.22



**58. Composite Federal Share.** The Composite Federal Share is the ratio that will be used to convert the total computable budget neutrality limit to federal share. The Composite Federal Share is the ratio calculated by dividing the sum total of FFP received by the state on actual demonstration expenditures during the approval period by total computable demonstration expenditures for the same period, as reported through MBES/CBES and summarized on Schedule C. Since the actual final Composite Federal Share will not be known until the end of the demonstration’s approval period, for the purpose of interim monitoring of budget neutrality, a reasonable estimate of Composite Federal Share may be developed and used through the same process or through an alternative mutually agreed to method. Each Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Test has its own Composite Federal Share, as defined in the paragraph pertaining to each particular test.

**59. Exceeding Budget Neutrality.** CMS will enforce the budget neutrality agreement over the life of the demonstration approval period, which extends from April 16, 2021 to March 31, 2026. If at the end of the demonstration approval period the budget neutrality limit has been exceeded, the excess federal funds will be returned to CMS. If the demonstration is terminated prior to the end of the demonstration period, the budget neutrality test will be based on the time period through the termination date.

**60. Mid-Course Correction.** If at any time during the demonstration approval period CMS determines that the demonstration is on course to exceed its budget neutrality expenditure limit, CMS will require the state to submit a corrective action plan for CMS review and approval. CMS will use the threshold levels in the tables below as a guide for determining when corrective action is required.

<b>Table 5: Hypothetical Budget Neutrality Test Mid-Course Correction Calculations</b>		
<b>Demonstration Year</b>	<b>Cumulative Target Definition</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
DY 1	Cumulative budget neutrality limit plus:	2.0 percent
DY 1 through DY 2	Cumulative budget neutrality limit plus:	1.5 percent
DY 1 through DY 3	Cumulative budget neutrality limit plus:	1.0 percent
DY 1 through DY 4	Cumulative budget neutrality limit plus:	0.5 percent
DY 1 through DY 5	Cumulative budget neutrality limit plus:	0.0 percent

**XII. SCHEDULE OF DELIVERABLES FOR THE DEMONSTRATION PERIOD**

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>STC</b>
30 calendar days after approval date	State acceptance of demonstration waiver, expenditure authority, and STCs	Approval letter
180 calendar days from the demonstration approval date	Draft Evaluation Design	STC 30
60 calendar days after receipt of CMS's comments on the Draft Evaluation Design	Revised Evaluation Design	STC 32
30 calendar days after CMS's Approval	Approved Evaluation Design published to state's website	STC 32
March 31, 2025 or With renewal application	Draft Interim Evaluation Report	STC 34
60 calendar days after receipt of CMS's comments on the Draft Interim Evaluation Report	Revised Interim Evaluation Report	STC 34
Within 18 months after March 31, 2026	Draft Summative Evaluation Report	STC 35
60 calendar days after receipt of CMS's comments on the Draft Summative Evaluation Report	Revised Summative Evaluation Report	STC 35
Monthly Deliverables	Monitoring Call	STC 27
Quarterly are due no later than sixty (60) calendar days following the end of each demonstration quarter.	Quarterly Monitoring Reports	STC 24
Annual monitoring reports due 90 calendar days after the end of each 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Annual Monitoring Reports	STC 24

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## **Attachment A**

### **Developing the Evaluation Design**

#### **Introduction**

For states that are testing new approaches and flexibilities in their Medicaid programs through section 1115 demonstrations, evaluations are crucial to understand and disseminate what is or is not working and why. The evaluations of new initiatives seek to produce new knowledge and direction for programs and inform Medicaid policy for the future. While a narrative about what happened during a demonstration provides important information, the principal focus of the evaluation of a section 1115 demonstration should be obtaining and analyzing data on the process (e.g., whether the demonstration is being implemented as intended), outcomes (e.g., whether the demonstration is having the intended effects on the target population), and impacts of the demonstration (e.g., whether the outcomes observed in the targeted population differ from outcomes in similar populations not affected by the demonstration). Both state and federal governments need rigorous quantitative and qualitative evidence to inform policy decisions.

CMS expects Evaluation Designs to be rigorous, incorporate baseline and comparison group assessments, as well as statistical significance testing. Technical assistance resources for constructing comparison groups and identifying causal inferences are available on Medicaid.gov: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/1115-demonstration-monitoring-evaluation/1115-demonstration-state-monitoring-evaluation-resources/index.html>. If the state needs technical assistance using this outline or developing the Evaluation Design, the state should contact its demonstration team.

#### **Expectations for Evaluation Designs**

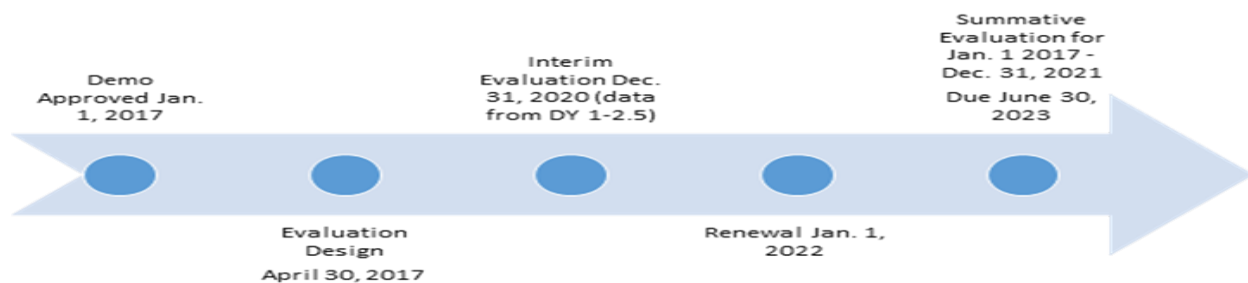
All states with Medicaid section 1115 demonstrations are required to conduct an evaluation, and the Evaluation Design is the roadmap for conducting the evaluation. The roadmap begins with the stated goals for the demonstration, followed by the measurable evaluation questions and quantifiable hypotheses, all to support a determination of the extent to which the demonstration has achieved its goals. When conducting analyses and developing the evaluation reports, every effort should be made to follow the approved methodology. However, the state may request, and CMS may agree to, changes in the methodology in appropriate circumstances.

The format for the Evaluation Design is as follows:

- A. General Background Information;
- B. Evaluation Questions and Hypotheses;
- C. Methodology;
- D. Methodological Limitations;
- E. Attachments.

#### **Submission Timelines**

There is a specified timeline for the state's submission of Evaluation Design and Reports (the graphic below depicts an example of this timeline for a 5-year demonstration). In addition, the state should be aware that section 1115 evaluation documents are public records. The state is required to publish the Evaluation Design to the state's website within thirty (30) calendar days of CMS approval, as per 42 CFR 431.424(e). CMS will also publish a copy to the Medicaid.gov website.



### Required Core Components of All Evaluation Designs

The Evaluation Design sets the stage for the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports. It is important that the Evaluation Design explain the goals and objectives of the demonstration, the hypotheses related to the demonstration, and the methodology (and limitations) for the evaluation. A copy of the state’s Driver Diagram (described in more detail in paragraph B2 below) should be included with an explanation of the depicted information.

**A. General Background Information** – In this section, the state should include basic information about the demonstration, such as:

1. The issue/s that the state is trying to address with its section 1115 demonstration and/or expenditure authorities, the potential magnitude of the issue/s, and why the state selected this course of action to address the issue/s (e.g., a narrative on why the state submitted an 1115 demonstration proposal).
2. The name of the demonstration, approval date of the demonstration, and period of time covered by the evaluation,
3. A brief description of the demonstration and history of the implementation, and whether the draft Evaluation Design applies to an amendment, extension, renewal, or expansion of the demonstration,
4. For renewals, amendments, and major operational changes: A description of any changes to the demonstration during the approval period; the primary reason or reasons for the change; and how the Evaluation Design was altered or augmented to address these changes,
5. Describe the population groups impacted by the demonstration.

**B. Evaluation Questions and Hypotheses** – In this section, the state should:

1. Describe how the state’s demonstration goals are translated into quantifiable targets for improvement, so that the performance of the demonstration in achieving these targets could be measured.
2. Include a Driver Diagram to visually aid readers in understanding the rationale behind the cause and effect of the variants behind the demonstration features and intended outcomes. A driver diagram is a particularly effective modeling tool when working to improve health and health care through specific interventions. The diagram includes information about the goal of the demonstration, and the features of the demonstration. A driver diagram depicts the relationship between the aim, the primary drivers that contribute directly to achieving the aim, and the secondary drivers that are necessary to achieve the

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primary drivers for the demonstration. For an example and more information on driver diagrams: <https://innovation.cms.gov/files/x/hciatwoaimsdrvrs.pdf>.

3. Identify the state's hypotheses about the outcomes of the demonstration:
  - a. Discuss how the evaluation questions align with the hypotheses and the goals of the demonstration;
  - b. Address how the research questions / hypotheses of this demonstration promote the objectives of Titles XIX and/or XXI.
3. **Methodology** – In this section, the state is to describe in detail the proposed research methodology. The focus is on showing that the evaluation meets the prevailing standards of scientific and academic rigor, and the results are statistically valid and reliable, and that where appropriate it builds upon other published research (use references).

This section provides the evidence that the demonstration evaluation will: use the best available data; reports on, controls for, and makes appropriate adjustments for the limitations of the data and their effects on results; and discusses the generalizability of results. This section should provide enough transparency to explain what will be measured and how. Specifically, this section establishes:

1. *Evaluation Design* – Provide information on how the evaluation will be designed. For example, will the evaluation utilize a pre/post comparison? A post-only assessment? Will a comparison group be included?
2. *Target and Comparison Populations* – Describe the characteristics of the target and comparison populations, incorporating the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Include information about the level of analysis (beneficiary, provider, or program level), and if populations will be stratified into subgroups. Additionally discuss the sampling methodology for the populations, as well as support that a statistically reliable sample size is available.
3. *Evaluation Period* – Describe the time periods for which data will be included.
4. *Evaluation Measures* – List all measures that will be calculated to evaluate the demonstration. Include the measure stewards (i.e., the organization(s) responsible for the evaluation data elements/sets by “owning”, defining, validating; securing; and submitting for endorsement, etc.). Include numerator and denominator information. Additional items to ensure:
  - a. The measures contain assessments of both process and outcomes to evaluate the effects of the demonstration during the period of approval.
  - b. Qualitative analysis methods may be used, and must be described in detail.
  - c. Benchmarking and comparisons to national and state standards should be used, where appropriate.
  - d. Proposed health measures could include CMS's Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Children in Medicaid and CHIP, Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers and Systems (CAHPS), the Initial Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid-Eligible Adults and/or measures endorsed by National Quality Forum (NQF).
  - e. Proposed performance metrics can be selected from nationally recognized metrics, for example from sets developed by the Center for Medicare and

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Medicaid Innovation or for meaningful use under Health Information Technology (HIT).

- f. Among considerations in selecting the metrics shall be opportunities identified by the state for improving quality of care and health outcomes, and controlling cost of care.
5. *Data Sources* – Explain where the data will be obtained, and efforts to validate and clean the data. Discuss the quality and limitations of the data sources.
    - a. If primary data (data collected specifically for the evaluation) – The methods by which the data will be collected, the source of the proposed question/responses, the frequency and timing of data collection, and the method of data collection. Copies of any proposed surveys must be reviewed with CMS for approval before implementation.
  6. *Analytic Methods* – This section includes the details of the selected quantitative and/or qualitative measures to adequately assess the effectiveness of the demonstration. This section should:
    - a. Identify the specific statistical testing which will be undertaken for each measure (e.g., t-tests, chi-square, odds ratio, ANOVA, regression). Table A is an example of how the state might want to articulate the analytic methods for each research question and measure.
    - b. Explain how the state will isolate the effects of the demonstration (from other initiatives occurring in the state at the same time) through the use of comparison groups.
    - c. A discussion of how propensity score matching and difference in differences design may be used to adjust for differences in comparison populations over time (if applicable).
    - d. The application of sensitivity analyses, as appropriate, should be considered.
  7. *Other Additions* – The state may provide any other information pertinent to the Evaluation Design of the demonstration.

**Table A. Example Design Table for the Evaluation of the Demonstration**

Research Question	Outcome measures used to address the research question	Sample or population subgroups to be compared	Data Sources	Analytic Methods
<b>Hypothesis 1</b>				
Research question 1a	-Measure 1 -Measure 2 -Measure 3	-Sample e.g. All attributed Medicaid beneficiaries -Beneficiaries with diabetes diagnosis	-Medicaid fee-for-service and encounter claims records	-Interrupted time series
Research question 1b	-Measure 1 -Measure 2 -Measure 3 -Measure 4	-sample, e.g., PPS patients who meet survey selection requirements (used services within the last 6 months)	-Patient survey	Descriptive statistics
<b>Hypothesis 2</b>				
Research question 2a	-Measure 1 -Measure 2	-Sample, e.g., PPS administrators	-Key informants	Qualitative analysis of interview material

**D. Methodological Limitations** – This section provides detailed information on the limitations of the evaluation. This could include the design, the data sources or collection process, or analytic methods. The state should also identify any efforts to minimize the limitations. Additionally, this section should include any information about features of the demonstration that effectively present methodological constraints that the state would like CMS to take into consideration in its review.

**E. Special Methodological Considerations** – CMS recognizes that there may be certain instances where a state cannot meet the rigor of an evaluation as expected by CMS. In these instances, the state should document for CMS why it is not able to incorporate key components of a rigorous evaluation, including comparison groups and baseline data analyses. Examples of considerations include:

1. When the demonstration is:
  - a. Long-standing, non-complex, unchanged, or
  - b. Has previously been rigorously evaluated and found to be successful, or
  - c. Could now be considered standard Medicaid policy (CMS published regulations or guidance)
  
2. When the demonstration is also considered successful without issues or concerns that would require more regular reporting, such as:
  - a. Operating smoothly without administrative changes; and
  - b. No or minimal appeals and grievances; and
  - c. No state issues with CMS-64 reporting or budget neutrality; and

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- d. No Corrective Action Plans (CAP) for the demonstration.

## F. Attachments

- 1) **Independent Evaluator.** This includes a discussion of the state’s process for obtaining an independent entity to conduct the evaluation, including a description of the qualifications that the selected entity must possess, and how the state will assure no conflict of interest. Explain how the state will assure that the Independent Evaluator will conduct a fair and impartial evaluation, prepare an objective Evaluation Report, and that there would be no conflict of interest. The evaluation design should include a “No Conflict of Interest” statement signed by the independent evaluator.
- 2) **Evaluation Budget.** A budget for implementing the evaluation shall be provided with the draft Evaluation Design. It will include the total estimated cost, as well as a breakdown of estimated staff, administrative, and other costs for all aspects of the evaluation. Examples include, but are not limited to: the development of all survey and measurement instruments; quantitative and qualitative data collection; data cleaning and analyses; and reports generation. A justification of the costs may be required by CMS if the estimates provided do not appear to sufficiently cover the costs of the draft Evaluation Design, if CMS finds that the draft Evaluation Design is not sufficiently developed, or if the estimates appear to be excessive.
- 3) **Timeline and Major Milestones.** Describe the timeline for conducting the various evaluation activities, including dates for evaluation-related milestones, including those related to procurement of an outside contractor, if applicable, and deliverables. The Final Evaluation Design shall incorporate the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports. Pursuant to 42 CFR 431.424(c)(v), this timeline should also include the date by which the Final Summative Evaluation Report is due.



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## **Attachment B: Preparing the Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports**

### **Introduction**

For states that are testing new approaches and flexibilities in their Medicaid programs through section 1115 demonstrations, evaluations are crucial to understand and disseminate what is or is not working and why. The evaluations of new initiatives seek to produce new knowledge and direction for programs and inform Medicaid policy for the future. While a narrative about what happened during a demonstration provides important information, the principal focus of the evaluation of a section 1115 demonstration should be obtaining and analyzing data on the process (e.g., whether the demonstration is being implemented as intended), outcomes (e.g., whether the demonstration is having the intended effects on the target population), and impacts of the demonstration (e.g., whether the outcomes observed in the targeted population differ from outcomes in similar populations not affected by the demonstration). Both state and federal governments need rigorous quantitative and qualitative evidence to inform policy decisions.

### **Expectations for Evaluation Reports**

Medicaid section 1115 demonstrations are required to conduct an evaluation that is valid (the extent to which the evaluation measures what it is intended to measure), and reliable (the extent to which the evaluation could produce the same results when used repeatedly). To this end, the already-approved Evaluation Design is a map that begins with the demonstration goals, then transitions to the evaluation questions, and to the specific hypotheses, which will be used to investigate whether the demonstration has achieved its goals. States should have a well-structured analysis plan for their evaluation. With the following kind of information, states and CMS are best poised to inform and shape Medicaid policy in order to improve the health and welfare of Medicaid beneficiaries for decades to come. When conducting analyses and developing the evaluation reports, every effort should be made to follow the approved methodology. However, the state may request, and CMS may agree to, changes in the methodology in appropriate circumstances. When submitting an application for renewal, the Interim Evaluation Report should be posted on the state's website with the application for public comment. Additionally, the Interim Evaluation Report must be included in its entirety with the application submitted to CMS.

### **Intent of this Attachment**

Title XIX of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires an evaluation of every section 1115 demonstration. In order to fulfill this requirement, the state's submission must provide a comprehensive written presentation of all key components of the demonstration, and include all required elements specified in the approved Evaluation Design. This Attachment is intended to assist states with organizing the required information in a standardized format and understanding the criteria that CMS will use in reviewing the submitted Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports.

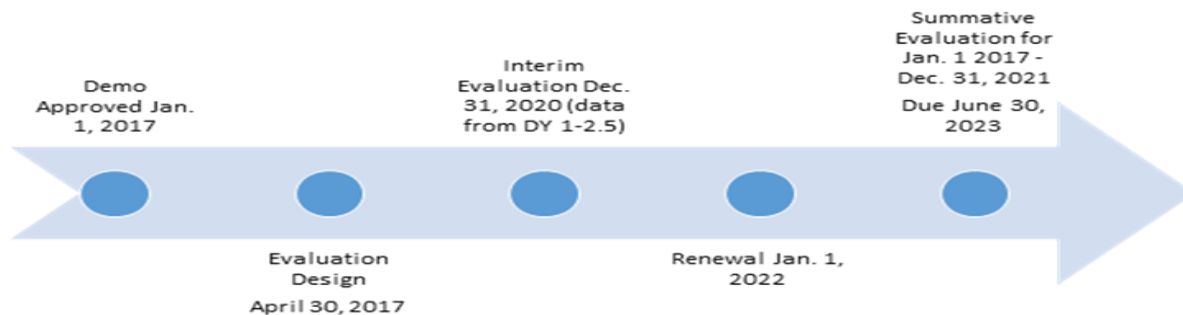
The format for the Interim and Summative Evaluation reports is as follows:

- A. Executive Summary;
- B. General Background Information;

- C. Evaluation Questions and Hypotheses;
- D. Methodology;
- E. Methodological Limitations;
- F. Results;
- G. Conclusions;
- H. Interpretations, and Policy Implications and Interactions with Other State Initiatives;
- I. Lessons Learned and Recommendations; and
- J. Attachment(s).

**Submission Timelines**

There is a specified timeline for the state’s submission of Evaluation Designs and Evaluation Reports. These dates are specified in the demonstration Special Terms and Conditions (STCs). (The graphic below depicts an example of a deliverables timeline for a 5-year demonstration). In addition, the state should be aware that section 1115 evaluation documents are public records. In order to assure the dissemination of the evaluation findings, lessons learned, and recommendations, the state is required to publish the evaluation design and reports to the state’s website within 30 days of CMS approval, as per 42 CFR 431.424(d). CMS will also publish a copy to the Medicaid.gov website.



**Required Core Components of Interim and Summative Evaluation Reports**

The section 1115 Evaluation Reports present the research about the section 1115 demonstration. It is important that the report incorporate a discussion about the structure of the Evaluation Design to explain the goals and objectives of the demonstration, the hypotheses related to the demonstration, and the methodology for the evaluation. A copy of the state’s Driver Diagram (described in the Evaluation Design Attachment) must be included with an explanation of the depicted information. The Evaluation Reports should present the relevant data and an interpretation of the findings; assess the outcomes (what worked and what did not work); explain the limitations of the design, data, and analyses; offer recommendations regarding what (in hindsight) the state would further advance, or do differently, and why; and discuss the implications on future Medicaid policy. Therefore, the state’s submission must include:

- A. **Executive Summary** – A summary of the demonstration, the principal results, interpretations, and recommendations of the evaluation.

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**B. General Background Information about the Demonstration** – In this section, the state should include basic information about the demonstration, such as:

- 1) The issues that the state is trying to address with its section 1115 demonstration and/or expenditure authorities, how the state became aware of the issue, the potential magnitude of the issue, and why the state selected this course of action to address the issues.
- 2) The name of the demonstration, approval date of the demonstration, and period of time covered by the evaluation.
- 3) A brief description of the demonstration and history of the implementation, and if the evaluation is for an amendment, extension, renewal, or expansion of, the demonstration.
- 4) For renewals, amendments, and major operational changes: A description of any changes to the demonstration during the approval period; whether the motivation for change was due to political, economic, and fiscal factors at the state and/or federal level; whether the programmatic changes were implemented to improve beneficiary health, provider/health plan performance, or administrative efficiency; and how the Evaluation Design was altered or augmented to address these changes.
- 5) Describe the population groups impacted by the demonstration.

**C. Evaluation Questions and Hypotheses** – In this section, the state should:

- 1) Describe how the state’s demonstration goals were translated into quantifiable targets for improvement, so that the performance of the demonstration in achieving these targets could be measured. The inclusion of a Driver Diagram in the Evaluation Report is highly encouraged, as the visual can aid readers in understanding the rationale behind the demonstration features and intended outcomes.
- 2) Identify the state’s hypotheses about the outcomes of the demonstration;
  - a. Discuss how the goals of the demonstration align with the evaluation questions and hypotheses;
  - b. Explain how this Evaluation Report builds upon and expands earlier demonstration evaluation findings (if applicable); and
  - c. Address how the research questions / hypotheses of this demonstration promote the objectives of Titles XIX and XXI.

**D. Methodology** – In this section, the state is to provide an overview of the research that was conducted to evaluate the section 1115 demonstration consistent with the approved Evaluation Design. The Evaluation Design should also be included as an attachment to the report. The focus is on showing that the evaluation builds upon other published research (use references), and meets the prevailing standards of scientific and academic rigor, and the results are statistically valid and reliable.

An Interim Evaluation Report should provide any available data to date, including both quantitative and qualitative assessments. The Evaluation Design should assure there is appropriate data development and collection in a timely manner to support developing an Interim Evaluation Report.

This section provides the evidence that the demonstration evaluation: used the best available data and describes why potential alternative data sources were not used;

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reported on, controlled for, and made appropriate adjustments for the limitations of the data and their effects on results; and discusses the generalizability of results. This section should provide enough transparency to explain what was measured and how.

Specifically, this section establishes that the approved Evaluation Design was followed by describing:

- 1) *Evaluation Design* – Will the evaluation be an assessment of: pre/post, post-only, with or without comparison groups, etc?
- 2) *Target and Comparison Populations* – Describe the target and comparison populations; include inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- 3) *Evaluation Period* – Describe the time periods for which data will be collected.
- 4) *Evaluation Measures* – What measures are used to evaluate the demonstration, and who are the measure stewards?
- 5) *Data Sources* – Explain where the data will be obtained, and efforts to validate and clean the data.
- 6) *Analytic Methods* – Identify specific statistical testing which will be undertaken for each measure (t-tests, chi-square, odds ratio, ANOVA, regression, etc.).
- 7) *Other Additions* – The state may provide any other information pertinent to the evaluation of the demonstration.

**E. Methodological Limitations** – This section provides sufficient information for discerning the strengths and weaknesses of the study design, data sources/collection, and analyses.

**F. Results** – In this section, the state presents and uses the quantitative and qualitative data to show to whether and to what degree the evaluation questions and hypotheses of the demonstration were achieved. The findings should visually depict the demonstration results (tables, charts, graphs). This section should include information on the statistical tests conducted.

**G. Conclusions** – In this section, the state will present the conclusions about the evaluation results.

- 1) In general, did the results show that the demonstration was/was not effective in achieving the goals and objectives established at the beginning of the demonstration?
- 2) Based on the findings, discuss the outcomes and impacts of the demonstration and identify the opportunities for improvements. Specifically:
  - a. If the state did not fully achieve its intended goals, why not? What could be done in the future that would better enable such an effort to more fully achieve those purposes, aims, objectives, and goals?

**H. Interpretations, Policy Implications and Interactions with Other State Initiatives** – In this section, the state will discuss the section 1115 demonstration within an overall Medicaid context and long range planning. This should include interrelations of the demonstration with other aspects of the state’s Medicaid program, interactions with other Medicaid demonstrations, and other federal awards affecting service delivery, health outcomes and the cost of care under Medicaid. This section provides the state with an opportunity to provide interpretation of the data using evaluative reasoning to make

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judgments about the demonstration. This section should also include a discussion of the implications of the findings at both the state and national levels.

**I. Lessons Learned and Recommendations** – This section of the Evaluation Report involves the transfer of knowledge. Specifically, the “opportunities” for future or revised demonstrations to inform Medicaid policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders is just as significant as identifying current successful strategies. Based on the evaluation results:

- 1) What lessons were learned as a result of the demonstration?
- 2) What would you recommend to other states which may be interested in implementing a similar approach?

**J. Attachment(s)**

- 1) Evaluation Design: Provide the CMS-approved Evaluation Design

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**Attachment C: Evaluation Design (Reserved)**



