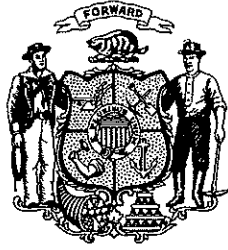


State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8592
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2540

Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein
Representative Mark Born

Date: June 7, 2022

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DHS

Pursuant to s. 20.940(3)(c)1, Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Health Services, received on June 7, 2022.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Friday, June 24, 2022**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

HM:MB:jm



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

June 7, 2022

JUN 07 2022
St. Finance

The Honorable Howard L. Marklein, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 316 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Born, Assembly Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 308 East
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

Per s. 20.940(3)(c)1., I am submitting, for Committee approval under 14-day passive review, a final implementation plan for the amendment to the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project to provide vaccine coverage for SeniorCare members. The amendment was recently approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The implementation plan is attached. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen E. Timberlake".

Karen E. Timberlake
Secretary-designee

DHS Final Implementation Plan SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project Amendment

Per s. 20.940(3)(c)(1), this document describes the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (Department) plan to implement vaccine coverage for members who are enrolled in the SeniorCare program.

On November 19, 2020, the Department submitted the proposed SeniorCare waiver amendment to implement vaccine coverage to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). On June 6, 2022, CMS granted conditional approval of the amendment, dependent on State compliance with the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) outlined below. Wisconsin may begin receiving Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for SeniorCare members receiving vaccinations effective June 6, 2022, through the duration of the current SeniorCare waiver, December 31, 2028.

Per s. 20.940(3)(c)(1), DHS will implement the new coverage once the Joint Committee on Finance (the Committee) approves this final implementation plan.

1. Overview of the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project Amendment

Under the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project, Wisconsin is eligible for federal Medicaid matching funds to provide vaccine coverage for SeniorCare members who are 65 years of age or older who have income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project Amendment includes the following changes outlined below, including STCs stipulated by CMS.

- Added coverage for Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)-recommended vaccinations for adults 65 years of age and older without enrollee cost-sharing, including exclusion from the SeniorCare deductible period.
- Added requirements for coordination of benefits between SeniorCare and Medicare Part B pertaining to vaccination coverage, with an allowance that SeniorCare may cover vaccines for seniors eligible for but not enrolled in Medicare Part B.
- Added requirements to ensure that SeniorCare pays last whenever it is the payer of last resort through "other insurance" or "cost avoidance" rules that have been programmed into Wisconsin's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), which is the SeniorCare claims processing system.
- Requires the Department to submit two draft Interim Evaluation Reports during the demonstration period.
 - The first draft Interim Evaluation Report will be for the period from January 2019 through December 2022.

- The second draft Interim Evaluation Report will be for the period from January 2019 through December 2026.

2. Implementation Plan and Expected Timeline

In accordance with 2019 Wisconsin Act 185, and upon final approval by the Joint Committee on Finance, DHS plans to implement the following component of the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project Amendment effective June 6, 2022:

- Full coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccinations for SeniorCare members 65 years of age and older without cost-share requirements.

The DHS final implementation plan for the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project Amendment reflects the agency's goal of implementing these policies in a timely manner and in the most effective and efficient way for our members, staff, stakeholders, and the state.

The following components of the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project Amendment were previously submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance in October 2020. The Committee approved the SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Amendment proposal on November 6, 2020:

- Coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccinations for SeniorCare members who are enrolled in the SeniorCare program.
- ACIP-recommended vaccinations will not have member cost-share requirements.

SeniorCare Coverage of ACIP-Recommended Vaccinations

The SeniorCare 1115 Demonstration Project was amended to allow coverage of ACIP-recommended vaccinations for members enrolled in the SeniorCare program. The waiver amendment ensures the Department receives FFP and is in compliance with requirements of 2019 Wisconsin Act 185. Coverage of vaccinations is intended to fill the coverage gaps for members who do not have coverage for these vaccinations under the Medicaid state plan, Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D, or other coverage that pays primary to SeniorCare.

DHS has received the necessary approval from CMS to receive federal reimbursement for vaccinations provided to SeniorCare members effective June 6, 2022.

Expected Timeline for Coverage of ACIP-Recommended Vaccinations

Coverage of vaccinations for SeniorCare members will be effective as of the CMS approval date. SeniorCare members do not have additional enrollment requirements to receive this added program benefit.

Public communications to members and providers in June 2022 will include:

- ForwardHealth Provider Update
- ForwardHealth Update to members
- SeniorCare website updates
- Press release
- Social media
- Communications for stakeholder organizations that work with seniors

In May 2022, DHS completed all necessary system changes to allow vaccination claims submitted by pharmacies to be reimbursed for SeniorCare members.