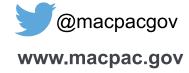
October 28, 2022

MACPAC Response to CMS Request for Information

Make your voice heard: Promoting efficiency and equity within CMS programs

Joanne Jee







Overview

- CMS's request for information (RFI)
- Potential comments
 - Advancing health equity
 - Impact of COVID-19 waivers and flexibility
 - Transparency
- Next steps





RFI: Make Your Voice Heard–Promoting Efficiency and Equity within CMS Programs

- CMS seeks comment on four topics across all CMS programs
 - Accessing health care and related challenges: personal perspectives and experiences with accessing care
 - Understanding provider experiences: provider experience and challenges in meeting patient needs
 - Advancing health equity: strategies to address health inequities
 - Impact of public health emergency waivers and flexibilities: areas for improvement and opportunities to decrease burden
- Comments are due November 4th



Advancing Health Equity

- Areas for CMS focus to address health disparities and advance health equity
 - Collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data: improved data quality, further standardization of T-MSIS data, stratification of core set measures
 - Monitoring access to care: need for access monitoring system with a priority on populations known to experience access issues
 - Addressing disparities for dually eligible individuals: integration of Medicaid and Medicare
- How CMS can better support accommodations for people with disabilities and language needs
 - Need for multiple modes of communications



Advancing Health Equity

- Feedback on enrollment and eligibility processes
 - Opportunities for streamlining eligibility and enrollment processes, e.g.,
 addressing challenges to ex parte eligibility determinations
 - Need for streamlining eligibility determinations for Medicare Savings Programs
 - Importance of assistance (e.g., individualized benefit counseling and a dedicated ombudsman program) for beneficiaries enrolling in dual eligible special needs plans (D-SNPs)
 - Need for CMS guidance on implementing default enrollment into D-SNPs



Impact of COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities

- Support for CMS's efforts to examine the effects of waivers in improving access to care, advancing health equity, and reducing beneficiary and provider burden
 - Streamline provider enrollment process
 - Simplify and streamline program integrity efforts
 - Assess the effects of telehealth on access quality, and cost



Transparency

- MACPAC could reiterate its call for transparency of the RFI process previously shared in April
- It is unclear if responses will be shared publicly



Next Steps

- Staff to draft and submit a response
- Comments are due November 4th
- MACPAC comments will posted to our website

October 28, 2022

MACPAC Response to Request for Information

Make your voice heard: Promoting efficiency and equity within CMS programs

Joanne Jee



