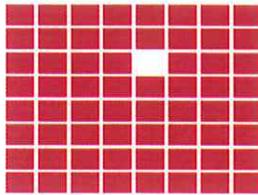


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Maryland Chapter AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

September 9, 2015

Victoria Wachino
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Ms. Wachino:

On behalf of the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MDACEP), we are writing to request that you approve the amendment submitted by the Maryland Medicaid Program to provide Medicaid payments for stays in Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs).

From MDACEP's perspective, without access to IMDs, adult Medicaid enrollees will be required to seek treatment in general acute care hospitals, often at a higher cost to the Medicaid program. More importantly, general acute care hospitals are not designed to provide the specialized care needed by these individuals and are often ill-equipped to do so. Without approval of this amendment, we fear that many individuals will end up languishing in emergency departments, waiting for services in general acute hospitals which will, in the end, prove to be inadequate. IMDs provide these specialized services in the most cost-effective setting, meeting not only the needs of the Medicaid enrollee but generating cost savings at both the State and federal level.

Again, we urge you to approve Maryland's waiver application to allow Medicaid payments for IMDs. A waiver will allow adult Medicaid enrollees to receive these necessary and specialized services in a setting dedicated to treating their specific needs. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Jacquis, M.D., FACEP
President

cc: Shannon McMahon, Deputy Secretary, DHMH
Pam Metz Kasemeyer, Counsel