

## HFS.Webmaster

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**From:** ilext.moss.farm@illinois.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2012 9:40 AM  
**To:** HFS.Webmaster  
**Subject:** Feedback from Public Notices

New Feedback has been received on the Public Notices site.

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**Comment:** Attached letter submitted April 2, 2012

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Bureau of Program and Reimbursement Analysis  
Division of Medical Programs  
Healthcare and Family Services  
201 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62763-0002

April 2, 2012

**RE: Comments on Cook County Board and the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS) request for a Medicaid 1115 waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

To the Bureau:

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of CCHHS' request for a Medicaid 1115 waiver from CMS. We believe Illinois has made great strides in providing quality primary care to the Medicaid population and this waiver gives Illinois the flexibility to improve its Medicaid program.

In concert with efforts already underway in Cook County and the state, the waiver will support delivery system improvements that will benefit patients while making care more efficient. By increasing coverage and strengthening the provider network, this waiver will build a bridge to the 2014 eligibility expansion that will take place under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The waiver is predicated on the medical home model which is the foundation on which health care reform can take place. The patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model is the provision of comprehensive preventive and primary care which will improve health care quality and efficiency. Studies demonstrate that having a regular source of preventive and primary care can:

- lower per person costs
- lower emergency room utilization
- fewer hospital admissions
- fewer unnecessary tests and procedures
- less illness and injury
- higher patient satisfaction

In Illinois, the Illinois Health Connect (IHC) program is a pcmh model which incorporates primary care case management (pccm) for the Medicaid population. The pccm model improves continuity of care, access to preventive services and coordination of chronic disease care for the client.

Likewise, CCHHS has adopted a strategic plan that is consistent with a PCMH system of care directly supporting care management, including several quality improvement activities consistent with the PCMH model: the waiver will provide an opportunity to expand upon

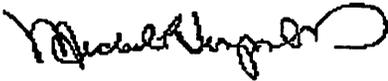
and sustain these efforts.

The goals of a CCHHS Care Management Program are to improve health outcomes of the CCHHS patient population, enhance patient experience of care and reduce the costly burden of uncoordinated health services. CCHHS will use a nationally accepted model of the PCMH for a care coordination plan as the ultimate vision for primary care practice. The waiver population will receive care management that is integrated into the primary care services within CCHHS's primary care network of 16 primary care sites. Primary care will be supported by CCHHS's specialty, diagnostic and inpatient services as well as a closed network of behavioral health providers.

Family physicians have been enthusiastic participants in the primary care case management model (pccm), Illinois Health Connect, and believe in its inherent ability to provide high quality care while saving money. As with Illinois Health Connect (IHC), individuals found eligible for waiver coverage will work with the HFS's Enrollment Broker to select a medical home within the CCHHS network. As described in the Care Management Plan section of this waiver application, patients will have the opportunity to choose a CCHHS Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). This home will be a team that will provide ongoing care for a defined panel of patients and will be accountable for the health of that patient population.

As you can see, we are enthusiastic supporters of primary care and patient-centered medical homes. We believe the Medicaid 115 waiver from CMS will support CCHHS' efforts to make a profound impact on safety net patients in Cook County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Temporal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael P. Temporal, MD  
President