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August 31, 2015

Tim Engelhardt
Acting Director, Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Director Engelhardt,

This letter is to inform the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of Illinois' interest in extending the Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) demonstration end date from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2019 to allow for additional time to collect data and analyze the long-term viability of this new payment model. Through blended capitated payments from Medicare and Medicaid, quality metrics, and care management requirements, MMAI provides an opportunity for dually eligible beneficiaries to receive high quality care and better coordinated services at a more sustainable cost to the state and federal government.

Illinois welcomes the opportunity to discuss a potential two-year extension of MMAI, as well as the state's continued commitment to stakeholder engagement and client-support processes, with CMS. Please contact Laura Phelan at laura.phelan@illinois.gov or 312-793-2791 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Robert Mendonsa
Deputy Administrator of Care Coordination and Rates
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
State of Illinois