



**To: All Medicaid Provider Types, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, Optum Behavioral Health ASO**

**From: Robert R. Neall, Secretary**

**Re: COVID-19 #8: Temporary Waiver of Premium Payments for Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) and Maryland Children's Health Program Premium (MCHP Premium)**

**Date: March 30, 2020**

**Effective Date: March 30, 2020, impacting premiums payments beginning March 1, 2020**

**NOTE: Please ensure appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this memorandum**

### **Background**

On March 5, 2020, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency due to disease ("COVID-19") caused by the novel coronavirus. The COVID-19 outbreak was declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, and was previously declared a nationwide public health emergency on January 31, 2020 (retroactive to January 27, 2020).

On March 30, 2020, Governor Hogan issued Executive Order No. 20-03-30-02, Waiving Family Contributions for the Maryland Children's Health Program, authorizing the Secretary of Health to waive the requirement of § 15-301.1 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code that a parent or guardian of an eligible individual agree to, during a month in which the public health emergency declared by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services remains in effect, pay a family contribution to enroll and participate in a Maryland Children's Health Program premium plan.

The measures outlined in this document are restricted to use during the state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency will expire immediately at the termination of the state of emergency.

### **Waiver of Premium Payments for Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program and Maryland Children's Health Program Premium (MCHP Premium)**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Health by the laws of Maryland, including but not limited to Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. Sections 18-102 and 18-103, to prevent the spread of disease and control communicable diseases, and the authority in Executive Order No. 20-03-30-01, I hereby temporarily waive enforcement of all premium payments for enrollees in the Medicaid Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program and Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP Premium).

The Department will not require monthly premium payments for Medicaid participants enrolled in the EID Program and MCHP Premium. This policy impacts premium payments due for the month of March and each subsequent month until the national state of emergency expires. EID and MCHP Premium enrollees that fail to submit a premium payment while these measures are in effect will not be disenrolled. Premium payments received during the state of emergency will be credited towards future monthly payments.