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Notice of Change in Medicaid State Plan

The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration is providing official notification, pursuant to 42 CFR § 447.205, of intent to file an amendment to the Medicaid State Plan. This amendment will be filed with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The purpose of this amendment is to reflect a change in TennCare's reimbursement methodology for nursing facility services. Specifically, this amendment proposes to end coverage of payments made to reserve a bed during a beneficiary's temporary absence from a nursing facility while receiving Level I (i.e., intermediate) care. For a period of several months, TennCare has worked with nursing facility providers, residents and their family members, and other stakeholders to revise its reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities. This revised methodology, which takes into consideration the acuity of resident needs, facilities' performance relative to specified quality measures, and a number of other factors, is scheduled for implementation in State Fiscal Year 2019. Effective with the implementation of the new reimbursement methodology, TennCare will no longer reimburse nursing facilities to reserve beds for beneficiaries who are temporarily absent from the facility.

The proposed effective date of the amendment is July 1, 2018. This amendment is anticipated to result in a decrease of approximately \$2.9 million in annual aggregate expenditures. (As noted above, this decrease is only one component of TennCare's revised reimbursement methodology for nursing facilities. A full description of the new methodology is available at http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules_filings/05-01-18.pdf.)

Copies of this notice will be available in each county office of the Tennessee Department of Health. A draft version of the amendment to Tennessee's Medicaid State Plan is available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents2/BedHoldSPA.pdf>. Written comments concerning the amendment may be submitted by email to public.notice.tenncare@tn.gov or may be mailed to

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310 Great Circle Road
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Persons wishing to review copies of written comments received may submit their requests to the same email and/or physical address.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-259-0701 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

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