

February 4, 2014

**Notification to Amend Medicaid Home and Community-Base Waivers**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) intends to file amendments with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to three (3) of its home and community based waiver programs operated through the Community Long Term Care (CLTC) Program. These waivers are:

1. SC.0186 HIV/AIDS Waiver
2. SC.0405 Community Choices Waiver
3. SC.40181 Mechanical Ventilator Dependent Waiver

These changes will enable SCDHHS to implement a joint Medicare-Medicaid demonstration program known as Healthy Connections Prime. Through Healthy Connections Prime, people age 65 and older who receive both Medicare and Medicaid and meet other eligibility criteria will get all of their care, including primary care, behavioral health and long term care services, from one health plan, known as a Coordinated and Integrated Care Organization (CICO). These amendments will allow eligible waiver participants to enroll in Healthy Connections Prime and to participate in one of these CLTC waivers. There will be substantive and technical changes in many sections of each waiver to allow this, but no adverse changes are anticipated for participants who are enrolled in both Healthy Connections Prime and a CLTC waiver. Enrollment in Healthy Connections Prime is totally voluntary.

During the amendment process, SCDHHS will review current service definitions, verify participant safeguards, and update the quality assurance sections as needed. The changes are proposed to be effective July 1, 2014, when eligible beneficiaries can begin enrolling in Healthy Connections Prime. Copies of these amendments will also be posted to the SCDHHS website at the time they are filed with CMS.