To whom it may concern:

The New Jersey Department of Human Services and its Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services intends to propose amendments to the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program’s Hospital Services Manual, N.J.A.C. 10:52 and the Physicians Services Manual, N.J.A.C. 10:54.

This notice also provides you with an opportunity to submit informal comments regarding such anticipated amendments, by August 25, 2017

The proposed rulemaking will contain language related to the administration of the Preadmission Screening (PAS) and Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) procedures used to evaluate individuals seeking nursing facility level of care.

The PAS and PASRR are federally required for all individuals seeking nursing facility level of care, regardless of whether or not they are also seeking benefits under the Medicaid program. (See 42 CFR Part 483.) In New Jersey, the PAS screens and PASRR evaluations/determinations were previously the responsibility of the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH); however, in State Fiscal Year 2013 budget language transferred senior supports and services from the Department of Health to the Department of Human Services (DHS). The former Divisions of Senior Benefits and Utilization Management and Aging and Community Services have been realigned as the Division of Aging Services (DoAS) within DHS. Both Departments have worked with providers to facilitate the transition of the responsibility for PAS and PASRR from DOH to DHS and these proposed amendments memorialize this transition.

The most significant of the proposed amendments will clarify the differences between the PASRR Level I screen and the PASRR Level II evaluation/determination; specifically that a Level I PASRR screen is the process of identifying whether or not an individual either has a diagnosis, or a suspected diagnosis, of either a serious mental illness (MI) or intellectual disability (ID), and/or related condition (RC), and/or developmental disability (DD). If the PASRR Level I screen identifies the individual as having diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of MI, ID, and/or RC, and/or DD, a Level II PASRR evaluation is performed to determine whether, and what type, of specialized services an individual needs to address and/or treat, his or her diagnosis.

Additional amendments will update terms used to be consistent with the terms used within the professional community, for example, changing “mentally retarded” to “intellectually disabled;” update the definitions used in the manual; and reflect the changes made as a result of the reorganization described above.

Please send any comments that you have regarding this advance notice of the upcoming proposed amendments to:

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You will also be given a 60-day opportunity to submit formal comments on any actual proposed amendments subsequent to a publication of such a proposal in the New Jersey Register. This office will notify you of the exact date of any such publication and the due date for submission of formal comments once any such dates are confirmed by the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law.

Thank you for your interest in the New Jersey Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program.