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Frequently Asked Questions on Reducing the Retroactive Eligibility Time Period

1. Will this change affect children and pregnant women?

- No.

2. Is this change a cut to Medicaid?

- No provider rates will be cut as a result of this change, no changes will be made to the eligibility threshold for enrollees in the Medicaid program, and no services will be cut as a result of this. The savings won't come from a cut, potential savings will come from increased efficiencies in the health care system.

3. What will reducing the retroactive eligibility period do?

- This is about paperwork, not patients. Health care providers will need to turn around Medicaid eligibility paperwork more quickly, rather than allowing patients to continue to receive uncoordinated care. This will create more efficiencies in the health care system, and will reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and institutionalizations. Hospitals are making record profits, and this change will not be a threat to that, it will simply ensure better-coordinated fully integrated care, as well as access to preventative services for people who are Medicaid eligible.

4. What benefit does this change have?

- The proposed change will actually provide a net benefit. By enrolling individuals quickly into the Medicaid program, you ensure that they are going to receive better-coordinated fully integrated care, as well as access to preventative services. Having coordinated care means that instead of going to the hospital or staying in an institutional setting recipients will have case managers who can help them get services in the community.