

Proposed Model Waiver Helps Seriously Ill Children

The State of Florida recently received a model waiver from CMS that will benefit seriously ill children. Colorado and Utah are also expected to receive this waiver soon.

The waiver is based on a new program developed by Children's Hospice International called the Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and their Families (CHI PACC).

"CHI PACC allows parents to pursue aggressive medical treatment for their child – as well as hospice care," explained Governor Jeb Bush of Florida.

Governor Bill Owens (R-CO) said, "Colorado's CHI PACC provides better care for more children — at less cost to government."

Colorado and Utah are likely to be the second and third states to receive waivers after Florida's, which was submitted on May 20.

"Currently, parents like me have to choose between medical treatment with hope for a cure and bereavement services," said Ellen Kaplan-Crawford, who hails the Florida CHI PACC program.

Other states participating are Kentucky, New York and Virginia. The New England CHI PACC covers Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

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