States Extending the Medicaid Pay Parity Program

The Kaiser Family Foundation completed their Annual Medicaid Budget Survey and released their results in October 2014. When states were asked whether they plan to extend the Medicaid Pay Parity program past the federal program expiration on December 31, 2014, fifteen states indicated that they do plan to continue the program in some capacity. See Kaiser’s map below which shows the different states that have chosen to enact an extension:

State Plans Related to the ACA Primary Care Increase for SFY 2015

Here’s an example of how three different states are moving forward with the Medicaid Pay Parity extension:

**Alabama**

Alabama, a state that did not expand Medicaid, has clearly seen the value of the Pay Parity program, choosing to extend it through at least September 2015. Plagued by severe physician participation issues, the program is seen as a solution for Alabama. Attestation requirements are the same as they were under the ACA program.

**Colorado**

Colorado has chosen to both extend and expand upon the Medicaid Pay Parity program, using new federal Medicaid funds to support a program that provides parity to not only primary care physicians, but to all providers with claims for office visits or vaccination (therefore changing the attestation requirements). The program is extended through June 30, 2016.

**Iowa**

Iowa is extending through the end of FY15 (June 30, 2015), which is the most common extension date among the states above. Their reimbursement rates will be pegged at January 2014 Medicare rates for primary care and June 2014 rates for immunizations. Attestation requirements are the same as they were under the ACA program.