



comments on merger

1 message

Michael Coffey <MichaelCoffey@spsh.com>
To: "Centene-WellCareMerger@azahcccs.gov" <Centene-WellCareMerger@azahcccs.gov>

Mon, Sep 23, 2019 at 9:27 AM

Sorry for the late response, hope our concerns will still be used.....

Copper Springs has been in an almost year long dispute with how AZ Complete Health has handled the setup of our facility in their payment system, we have weekly calls where we receive the same information over and over, that they are struggling to build our facility profile and cannot indicate a resolution point. The fact that AZ Complete is taking over the oversight of more AHCCCS members is very troubling.

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----- Original message -----

From: Ann-Marie Alameddin <aalameddin@AzHHA.Org>

Date: 9/18/19 3:36 PM (GMT-08:00)

To:

Subject: AHCCCS comment on Az Complete/Care1st Merger

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Dear AzHHA constituency group members,

As you may know, AHCCCS is requesting comment on the proposed merger between AHCCCS-contracted health plans Centene Corporation (dba as **Arizona Complete Health-Complete Care Plan**) and WellCare Health Plans (dba **Care1st Health Plan of Arizona**).

Because the two entities serve almost 400,000 health plan members throughout Maricopa, Pinal, Gila, the southern and northern geographic regions of our state, the potential AzHHA member impact is great. You can learn more about it below.

Your options:

1. **Independently submit** your comments directly to Centene-WellCareMerger@azahcccs.gov no later than Friday, Sept. 20.
2. **Submit your input to Debbie Johnston at AzHHA** (djohnston@azhha.org) so that we can include in AzHHA's comment letter no later than noon on Friday, Sept. 20.

For your reference, the following are two issues flagged by members on this proposed merger:

1. There are current issues around Arizona Complete Health (Centene) plan and the impact on provider business office and credentialing activities that will continue to incur administrative/operational burdens that impact administrative, operational efficiencies ultimately leading to cash flow challenges as Arizona Complete Health continues to have significant provider load issues resulting in member assignments, classification challenges (primary versus specialty designations incorrectly reflected in their system) leading to incorrect payments, appeals and generally, additional administrative costs to correct the AZ Complete Health's issue and secure the correct reimbursement.

Given, AZ Complete Health is the "acquiring" entity, thus migrating Care1st's providers, claims and similar into their operations, what guarantees exist that the current provider load and payment challenges which currently exists will not occur again on a greater member/patient capacity? Provider challenges with Az Complete Health continue.

2. The original AHCCCS program RFP which indicated that a single ACC contractor will not be able to contract for more than 2 of the 3 regions. The combined AZ Complete Health entity will have a statewide presence and contradicts the AHCCCS RFP directive. What are AHCCCS's plans to mitigate this statewide presence? Will the merged entity be required to give up either the North or South Region? Will the remaining ACC plans be able to bid on the vacating region? Is there a time table for this activity?

PRESS RELEASE

AZAHCCCS.GOV



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2019

AHCCCS Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Health Care Plan Merger

PHOENIX — The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) seeks public comment regarding the proposed merger agreement between Centene Corporation (“Centene”) and WellCare Health Plans (“WellCare”), which would result in Centene acquiring control of WellCare. In addition, AHCCCS is seeking public comment on the proposed transition plan associated with this proposed merger. Two AHCCCS contracted health plans, Arizona Complete Health-Complete Care Plan and Care1st Health Plan of Arizona, are affected by this proposed merger.

Arizona Complete Health-Complete Care Plan is owned by Centene Corporation and currently serves approximately 209,600 members throughout Maricopa, Pinal, and Gila counties as well as the entire southern geographic area including Pima County. Care1st Health Plan of Arizona is a wholly owned subsidiary of WellCare and currently serves approximately 173,400 members throughout Maricopa, Pinal and Gila counties as well as the entire northern geographic area of the state.

Read more about the proposed transition plan and the resulting organizational changes. AHCCCS requests public comments on the proposed merger no later than September 20, 2019. Comments can be submitted to Centene-WellCareMerger@azahcccs.gov.

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ABOUT AHCCCS

Founded in 1982, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System serves 1.9 million individuals in Arizona who meet qualifications for federal Medicaid health care coverage. Built on a system of competition and choice, AHCCCS is a \$14 billion program that operates a mandatory managed care system. For the majority of members, contracted health plans coordinate health care services delivered by more than 88,000 providers.

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