



Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Medicaid Division

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

February 14, 2023

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published the “Medicaid Program; Covered Outpatient Drug” Final Rule with Comment Period (CMS-2345-FC) in the Federal Register (81 FR 5170). This rule allows inclusion of the territories in the definitions of “States” and “United States” and allows territories to participate in the federal Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP) effective January 01, 2023. Additionally, CMS indicated that territories are able to use existing waiver authority under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to elect not to participate in the MDRP.

The USVI is proposing under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, to conduct an evaluation of whether the USVI Medicaid program should enter into the MDRP, or continue under its current fee-for-service Medicaid drug program. The evaluation will study the impact of the costs and benefits of participation in the MDRP on the USVI Medicaid drug program, its providers, and its beneficiaries in the USVI. The evaluation will compare the costs and benefits of MDRP participation to the current Medicaid drug program and possible modifications of that program without entering into the MDRP.

In compliance with Federal requirements at 42 CFR 431.408, the USVI Department of Human Services is inviting public comment on this proposed evaluation. During the period of this evaluation, there will be no changes to the USVI Medicaid drug program eligibility, benefits, coverage, or reimbursement. Paper copies of the proposed evaluation are available from the USVI Department of Human Services at the following locations:

Addresses in STT/STJ: Medicaid Director
Knud Hansen Complex, Bldg. A
1303 Hospital Ground
St. Thomas, VI 00802

STX: Medicaid Director
#47 Mars Hill Complex
Frederiksted, VI 00840

Copies are also available on the DHS website at <http://www.dhs.gov.vi/home/index.html> under the Section entitled “USVI Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.”

Public written comments are due no later than February 20, 2023. The comments may be submitted to DHS at the addresses noted above or via email at providerrelationsmap@dhs.vi.gov.

In addition, the USVI conducted two virtual public hearings on January 23, 2023 and January 25, 2023. Any questions should be sent to the USVI Medicaid Program Director at the addresses listed above.