



**For Immediate Release**  
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**FLORIDA RECEIVES MEDICAID WAIVER TO HELP SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH  
POTENTIALLY LIFE-LIMITING CONDITIONS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**TALLAHASSEE** – Florida Department of Health (DOH) Deputy Secretary and State Health Officer for Children's Medical Services (CMS), Joseph Chiaro, M.D., today announced that Florida has been awarded a federal waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for its Program for All-inclusive Care for Children (PACC), an innovative program based on a model of care developed by Children's Hospice International (CHI) for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. Florida is the first state to receive a Medicaid waiver for this program.

"The Department of Health is committed to caring for Florida's most vulnerable residents and assisting their families," said Chiaro. "By providing key support services to children and their families as they cope with life-threatening conditions, CMS, Florida Hospices and Palliative Care and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) will not only ensure that immediate needs are met, but will make a significant contribution toward the quality of life of Florida's most courageous children and families."

Jayne Parker, Partners In Care-Together for Kids (PIC) project manager and Bob Maryanski, former PACC project director, have been invited by Children's Hospice International and U.S. House Representative James P. Moran to present the Florida PACC model during a congressional reception in Washington on July 26.

Florida's PACC program is called Partners In Care-Together for Kids (PIC), a program that offers hospice-type support services designed especially for children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. The Florida model was created through a partnership that includes the Department of Health's Children's Medical Services Network, the Agency for Health Care Administration and Florida Hospices and Palliative Care.

The PIC program's primary goal is to provide additional support to patients and families coping with a life-threatening illness. PIC services include pain and symptom management, therapeutic counseling, expressive therapies for young children, respite, specialized nursing and personal care.

The waiver will bypass current federal law that restricts terminally ill patients from receiving hospice care until the last six months of life. Through PIC, families with children receiving active medical treatment or curative care will be able to receive an overlay of hospice-type support services at any time following diagnosis. By providing early and continual intervention and consistent supportive care, the frequency of hospital admissions for these children may be reduced, while the quality of life for the child and family is increased.

For additional information, visit the Department of Health Web site at [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) and select Children's Medical Services from the drop box or visit Children's Hospice International at [www.chionline.org](http://www.chionline.org).

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