



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

**Andy Beshear
Governor**

275 East Main Street, 5W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621
502-564-7042
502-564-7091
www.chfs.ky.gov

**Eric C. Friedlander
Acting Secretary**

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On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear signed Executive Order 2020-215 declaring a state of emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 13, 2020, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invoked its authority under section 1135 of the Social Security Act to waive certain requirements that providers normally must meet to receive reimbursement for services to Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries. The HHS emergency declaration 1135 blanket waivers are intended to help general acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as well as other healthcare providers address the current public health crisis due to the spread of COVID-19 disease.

Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 2020-215 and pursuant to the authority of KRS Chapter 39A, KRS 194A.025, and KRS 214.020, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Office of Inspector General in collaboration with the Department for Public Health, hereby issues the following directive that shall remain in effect until Governor Beshear rescinds the Executive Order:

General acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, and CAHs shall not be required to obtain additional approval from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for a waiver from any requirement in state law or administrative regulation that is more stringent than the HHS emergency declaration 1135 blanket waivers, which took effect on March 1, 2020.

The Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has been designated by the Governor to deliver these directives during this state of emergency. This directive will allow providers to rely on the privileges and relaxed requirements that the 1135 blanket waivers afford in addressing the current public health crisis.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will continue to provide information and updates to healthcare providers during this public health emergency.

Respectfully,

Eric Friedlander
Acting Secretary

Adam Mather
Inspector General