

December 17, 2019

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Subcommittee Chair, House Legislative Oversight Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee
518B Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Tallon:

Thank you for contacting me as follow-up to my initial response to your questions regarding Medicaid payment of services related to inmates.

The committee's question relates to the reason behind inmates refusing to apply for or accept Medicaid benefits when presented with the opportunity. Although the department has not conducted an extensive study on this matter, we did discuss your inquiry with our Eligibility, Enrollment and Member Services (EEMS) team at the Department of Corrections (DOC). Our staff indicated that thematically, they hear the following types of reasons for rejection of benefits or refusal to apply:

- They believe DOC should be responsible for their healthcare, or don't want to aid the DOC in finding additional resources for care.
- They will not sign any document without first consulting an attorney.
- They don't believe they need it.
- They state it is something they will address upon release.

I would be happy to discuss this information further with your or with your staff and I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,


Joshua D. Baker

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee
Health and Regulatory Subcommittee