

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop AR-21-55  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



## Investigations and Audits Group

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September 24, 2020

The Honorable Lorenzo Gonzalez-Feliciano  
Secretary, Puerto Rico Department of Health  
P.O. Box 70184  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-8184

Dear Secretary Gonzalez-Feliciano:

Thank you for your letter regarding Puerto Rico's compliance with Medicaid program integrity-related requirements. Your letter dated June 18, 2020, on behalf of the Puerto Rico Department of Health (DOH), the single state agency that administers Puerto Rico's Medicaid program, requested a three-month extension to meet the requirement in section 1108(g)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as added by section 202 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, P.L. 116-94, that you appoint a Program Integrity Lead for the Medicaid program.

On August 17, 2020, I understand that the Puerto Rico DOH notified the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that Mrs. María D. García-Ducos had been appointed as the Program Integrity Director. This appointment rendered your previous request for an extension unnecessary. I find this appointment meets the requirements of section 1108(g)(7)(A)(i) of the Act, and for the period June 1, 2020 to August 17, 2020, your letter application dated June 18, 2020 describing extenuating circumstances that prevented Puerto Rico from fully satisfying the requirement is approved. Since this is a statutorily required position, please notify CMS of any changes in personnel who serve as the Program Integrity Lead, or if a vacancy should occur.

Thank you for your efforts in establishing a Program Integrity Lead. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Battaglia at [Laurie.Battaglia@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Laurie.Battaglia@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

*Peter Leonis*

Peter Leonis  
Deputy Director  
Investigations and Audits Group  
Center for Program Integrity

Cc:  
Laurie Battaglia  
Ivelisse Salce