



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

PT 18-05

Office of Health Services
Medical Care Programs

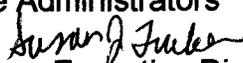
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TRANSPORTATION GRANTS TRANSMITTAL NO. 7
NURSING HOME TRANSMITTAL NO. 192**

February 4, 2005

TO: Transportation Grants Managers
Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: 
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

SUBJECT: Transportation Requests for Medicaid Applicants Pending Medicaid Approval

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the Maryland Medicaid Program's policy for handling non-emergency transportation requests under the Transportation Grant for individuals who have applied for Medical Assistance and are awaiting a final determination, particularly residents of nursing facilities. It is the Program's goal to provide a means for these applicants to access the transportation necessary to obtain medical services, in much the same way that they generally have access to other Medicaid-covered services during the pending period of their eligibility. Obviously this goal is balanced by the need to assure that Medicaid funds are used only for those ultimately determined eligible.

In order to ensure that applicants who are residents of nursing facilities have access to transportation to needed out-of-facility services, grantees are strongly encouraged to enter into agreements with local nursing facilities to guarantee payment for transportation for these applicants. Such an agreement should incorporate the following:

1. The nursing facility requests non-emergency transportation using the grantee's established protocol;



2. The grantee (or designee) determines whether the individual has applied for Medicaid and whether other requirements (covered service, no other transportation available, etc.) have been met;
3. If the resident meets the conditions under #2 above, the trip is approved and scheduled; and
4. If the resident proves not to be Medicaid eligible on the date of service, the nursing facility agrees to cover the costs incurred for transportation services.

For applicants who are not nursing facility residents, the Program encourages grantees and vendors to furnish transportation services when necessary and appropriate, particularly when the recipient or another entity (such as a hospital) has agreed to pay or to guarantee payment. As with nursing facility residents, grantees are encouraged to make agreements with local hospitals to guarantee payment for transportation of discharged patients who are pending Medical Assistance.

Once Medical Assistance eligibility has been established, grantees should pay for any transportation services that were furnished during the pending period if the following requirements are met:

1. The recipient was eligible for full Medical Assistance benefits on the date of the transportation,
2. Transportation was provided by a contracted vendor, and
3. It can be determined that all other requirements (covered service, no other available resource, etc.) were met.

Please note that if the recipient or other party made payment for the transportation during the pending period, the grantee or vendor must make a full refund to that party once it has been determined that payment from the Grant will be made. Please also note that Grant funds cannot be used to cover the cost of transportation if eligibility is ultimately denied for the date(s) of service.

Any questions regarding this transmittal may be directed to the Staff Specialist for Transportation at 410-767-1739.