



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

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
General Provider No. 75
July 14, 2009

To: Hospitals
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Physicians
Local Health Departments
Maryland Qualified Health Centers
General Clinics
Pharmacies
Nurse Midwives
Nurse PractitionerS

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

Jill Spector, Acting Executive Director
Office of Eligibility Services

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

Subject: Pregnant Undocumented or Ineligible Immigrants

The Maryland Medical Assistance (MA) program is changing the application process for undocumented or ineligible pregnant women. There has been no change in policy regarding covered services. As required by Federal mandate, Medical Assistance only covers labor and delivery and emergency services for this population. The previous application process only allowed undocumented or ineligible immigrant women to apply for emergency MA after delivery.

Effective June 1, 2009, low-income pregnant women who are undocumented or ineligible immigrants are able to apply for MA at their local health department (LHD) or local department of social services (LDSS) prior to giving birth. The LHD or LDSS will determine their eligibility for MA coverage for anticipated labor and delivery services.



Applicants will receive a letter informing them of their eligibility. If eligible, the letter will include the woman's MA number for labor and delivery services. This letter will be in lieu of an MA card. The woman will be instructed to present the letter and number to the hospital and health care provider at the time of delivery. However, even if the customer forgets the letter, providers must verify eligibility and benefits via the Eligibility Verification System (EVS) at 1-866-710-1447 or online at www.emdhealthchoice.org. Please read or listen carefully to the entire EVS message.

Women who are not enrolled in Medical Assistance at the time of delivery should apply for retroactive coverage, including coverage for the newborn, at the LHD or LDSS. To initiate MA coverage for the newborns of undocumented or ineligible women, hospitals should now follow the same procedures as for all women covered by Medical Assistance. Hospitals must complete the Hospital Report of Newborn Report (Form 1184) and fax the form to the Department at 410-333-7012.

DHMH does not guarantee payments for emergency services outside of labor and delivery for undocumented or ineligible pregnant women. Reimbursement determination for non-labor and delivery claims will continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If approved for payment, all claims will be reimbursed at fee-for-service rates.

If there are any specific questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact Provider Relations. The telephone number is (410) 767-5503 for professional services and (410) 767-5503 for institutional services.