



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Medical Care Policy Administration
 1-800-685-5861

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201
 Parris N. Glendening, Governor - Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

General Provider Transmittal No. 52

October 15, 1999

All Providers

FROM: Joseph M. Millstone *JMM*
 Director

Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Medicaid Eligibility

During the period of January 1997 through May 1999, some persons who applied for or received Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) may not have been separately tested for Medicaid eligibility. To rectify that situation, the Department will give temporary two month red & white Medical Care Program cards to each member of a family whose Medical Assistance was canceled when their temporary cash assistance was stopped. The cards will be effective during November and December 1999. These people will also be encouraged to apply for ongoing Medical Assistance coverage.

Those persons, in addition to other applicants, are now being given the opportunity to be tested for eligibility for that past period when a Medicaid eligibility determination may not have been made. Recipients will be encouraged to apply for retroactive eligibility during the two month period in which they have temporary Medical Care Program cards. The absolute deadline for applying for the extended retroactive coverage is April 30, 2000. Retroactive eligibility may be effective as early as January 1997.

This retroactive eligibility will affect you as a provider if:

- you provided health care services to a recipient with "approved" retroactive eligibility during the period of January 97 - May 99; and
- that recipient either paid or still has an outstanding balance with your practice.

Bills from the January 97 - May 99 period can be submitted to DHMH for payment as directed at the end of this transmittal. The normal nine-month billing period limitation will be lifted for these bills. All other bills will follow the same billing period procedures as described in the Medicaid billing instructions.

You can verify the person's eligibility by asking for a copy of the special, dated, Eligibility Verification form that will be given to all recipients who receive the retroactive eligibility or by using EVS for the specific date of service. Medical Care Program cards will not be issued for retroactive coverage. You have nine months from the date on the special Eligibility Verification form to submit bills going back to January 1997 (or the beginning date of the recipient's eligibility, whichever is later).

As a condition of payment of these bills, you are required to withdraw any collection action you may have against the individual recipient and correct any credit reports accordingly. If the person has paid a bill for that period, you are required to reimburse the recipient.

The process to submit the bills is:

- 1 If Date of Service is less than nine months from current date, electronic processing is allowed.**
- 2. Please submit hard-copy claims if the date of service is more than nine months old for the special nine month limit override--no electronic processing is available for the special override in that particular situation.**
- 3 The special hard-copy claims must not be sent to the usual P.O. Box but instead should be sent to:**

**Division of Managed Care
Medical Care Policy Administration
201 W. Preston Street, Room 133
Baltimore, MD 21201**

Any questions on the above process should be referred to 1-800-685-5861, extension 1482. A sample of the Eligibility Verification form is attached. Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachment

