



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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

September 4, 2008

Dear Kidney Disease Program Providers:

I wanted to update you on some recent changes in the Kidney Disease Program. I am well aware there have been significant delays in reimbursement to providers in the Kidney Disease Program and I am also aware that this issue has taken an extensive amount of time to resolve. I have not been satisfied with the progress we have been making to resolve this problem and have decided to take additional steps.

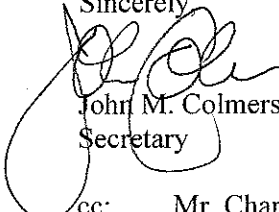
In May 2008, I authorized advance payments to be made to providers who could document that they had unpaid claims. We hope this advance will help to address the cash flow issue many providers are experiencing. However, advance payments are not the long term solution. Addressing the underlying administrative problems with processing the claims must be a part of the solution.

Effective immediately, we have shifted management of the program to Charles Lehman, Executive Director of the Office of Systems, Operations and Pharmacy in the Medicaid Program. This transition will provide the Kidney Disease Program more access to additional claims processing staff, focused efforts on increasing the number of electronic Medicare crossover claims, and improved technology support.

Furthermore, we plan to communicate more effectively with you, the providers of the program. By September 1, 2008, we will implement a monitored e-mail address that you may use to communicate any concerns you may have to the Department. The address is KDPINFO@dhmh.state.md.us. Additionally on September 1st we will establish a Kidney Disease Program link on DHMH's website (www.dhmh.state.md.us/healthcare/medhealthins.htm) for you to get the latest information on the program and our progress.

It is my goal to address these long term issues in an effective manner. The Kidney Disease Program is important to the individuals it serves and it is imperative that providers be paid timely for the services they provide. Carol Manning continues to manage the program; and if you have operational questions please contact her at (410) 767-5000. For other issues contact Charles Lehman who has overall management responsibilities at (410) 767-5400.

Sincerely,


John M. Colmers
Secretary

cc: Mr. Charles Lehman
Mr. John G. Folkemer
Ms. Carol Manning

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