

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

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GIS 05 MA/036

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director
Division of Consumer and Local District Relations Office of Medicaid
Management

SUBJECT: Citizens Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Liaison
Upstate: (518) 474-8887 New York City: (212) 417-4500

GIS 05 TA/DC027 issued on September 2, 2005, and GIS 05 TA/DC028, issued on September 8, 2005, provided guidance to local social services districts on the provision of assistance to meet immediate and emergency needs through emergency temporary assistance programs, Food Stamp benefits and Medicaid for evacuees. The purpose of this message is to provide local departments of social services with updated information on providing Medicaid to citizens displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Discussions continue between states and the federal government about the precise nature of federal Medicaid easements for victims of the hurricane. Many national proposals have been offered, including bills introduced in Congress. Although the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have provided a template, New York does not have a Hurricane Katrina waiver at this time.

We have reminded providers that individuals who are enrolled in their home state's Medicaid program should receive services in New York, but the cost should be billed to the home state after the provider enrolls in that state's Medicaid program. (See the attached Dear Provider letter.) At this time, persons who come to you with a Gulf Coast state Medicaid card may go to a New York provider without applying for New York Medicaid. If a person tells you they have Medicaid in the home state, it can be verified by calling the appropriate number below:

Alabama: 1-334-215-0111, option 3
Louisiana: 1-800-473-2783, option 0
Mississippi: 1-866-597-2675, ext. 0

Until official federal rules and procedures are finalized, local departments of social services must continue to obtain as much information as possible from Hurricane Katrina survivors who are applying for assistance in New York, so that individuals who receive care in New York can be identified and tracked. Complete documentation is not required for children under age 19, parents with children, or SSI-related individuals; at minimum, however, applicants must provide a verifiable form of identification, a Social Security number and a complete address in the disaster area where they resided immediately prior to the hurricane. Singles, childless couples, children age 19 or 20, and "Aliessa" aliens (PRUCOL or in the 5-year ban) must provide full documentation until further notice.

Districts are reminded that displaced citizens are not to be enrolled in managed care at this time. The managed care exception code 90 must be entered on the case. Individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid cannot be enrolled in Family Health Plus unless they intend to remain in New York as residents and provide the full documentation required by the Family Health Plus program.

Facilitated enrollment is not permitted for people applying because they were displaced by Hurricane Katrina, nor can the face-to-face interview be delegated through other MOUs, including PCAP. These individuals must apply through a local department of social services to ensure proper information collection and tracking.

The list of counties in Alabama and Mississippi declared disaster areas for assistance to individuals has been expanded by the federal government since GIS 05 TA/DC027 was issued. The complete list of disaster areas follows:

Alabama

Baldwin, Clarke, Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Mobile, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Washington Counties

Louisiana

The parishes of Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

Mississippi

Adams, Amite, Attala, Claiborne, Choctaw, Clarke, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yazoo Counties.

People who are not from these counties/parishes must follow regular Medicaid eligibility rules, including those pertaining to documentation.

Attached to the GIS is a New York State Medicaid Provider letter which asks providers to help evacuees by providing medically necessary care, services and supplies. This letter also provides initial guidance about Medicaid eligibility and reimbursement for services to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

OMM encourages local district Medicaid staff to work cooperatively with Temporary Assistance and Food Stamp staff to ensure that displaced citizens who present themselves to apply for Medicaid can obtain cash and/or Food Stamp assistance if appropriate. Local districts may wish to consider designating staff to address all assistance needs of evacuees.

As more federal guidance becomes available on issues of eligible individuals, eligibility procedures, service coverage and claiming/payment, further instructions will be issued. Until that time, if case specific questions

arise, please call your Local District Liaison so that these issues can be addressed.