

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director, Division of Coverage and Enrollment

SUBJECT: Referrals to Child Health Plus (CHPlus)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

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

This GIS message is to advise local districts of an initiative to improve the retention of public health insurance for children. Effective with the June 23, 2008 upstate WMS migration, a language change was made to Client Notices System (CNS) notices for children up to age 19 whose Medicaid is being discontinued for excess income. A new paragraph advises parents that a health plan that participates in CHPlus will contact them regarding enrolling their child(ren) into CHPlus. The paragraph reads as follows:

"There is another free or low cost health insurance program for children under age 19 who are ineligible for Medicaid, called Child Health Plus (CHPlus). One of the health plans that participates in CHPlus will contact you to ask if you would like to enroll your child(ren) in this program."

No action on your part is required. If the discontinued child was enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan that also participates with CHPlus, that plan will contact the child's parents. If the child had Medicaid fee-for-service or is in a plan that does not participate in CHPlus, a plan will be assigned by the Department to make the contact.

For a list of the specific closing codes affected by this change, see the "Dear WMS Coordinator" letter dated June 11, 2008. For parents who may prefer to keep their children in Medicaid, the reference to the option of Medicaid with a spenddown remains in these notices.

A similar referral process for children in New York City will be instituted in a special migration sometime in July.