

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

SUBJECT: New York State Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) as Primary
Documentation of United States Citizenship

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

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The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services (LDSS) with information regarding the New York State enhanced driver's license (EDL) or non-driver photo ID card.

Beginning September, 2008, New York State (NYS) is issuing a NYS enhanced driver's license or non-driver photo identification card that doubles as a form of identification for U.S. citizens when traveling by land and sea between the United States and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. The enhanced driver's license/non-driver photo ID card was created to comply with the requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which requires all travelers to show a passport or other document that proves identity and U.S. citizenship when entering/re-entering the United States.

The EDL is available to drivers who can prove identity, U.S. citizenship and NYS residency. The current NYS photo driver license/non-driver ID cards will continue to be available. The EDL will cost more than the current NYS photo driver license but less than a U.S. passport. The enhanced documents will include a U.S. flag and the word "Enhanced" on the front of the document, which differentiates it from the regular driver's license/non-driver photo ID card.

PRIMARY DOCUMENTATION

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 amended Medicaid regulations requiring states to obtain satisfactory documentary evidence of U.S. citizenship and identity for all Medicaid applicants or recipients. **LDSS eligibility workers must treat the enhanced driver's license/non-driver photo ID card as primary documentation of U.S. citizenship and identity.** The EDL/non-driver photo ID card should be added to the current list of primary documents used to prove U.S citizenship:

- U.S. Passport Book/Card;
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570);
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (N-560 or N-561).