

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director, Division of Eligibility and Enrollment
Office of Health Insurance Programs

SUBJECT: Refugee Medical Assistance: Eliminating Federal Charge Codes 34, 35
and 36

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
Upstate (518)474-8887 NYC (212)417-4500

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to inform Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) that the following federal charge codes used for the Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)/Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) programs and the Unaccompanied Refugee Entrant Minor (UREM) program have been eliminated. There is no longer any programmatic or administrative need for separate federal charge codes for Cuban and Haitian Entrants. These federal charge codes will no longer be valid during Eligibility or Undercare data entry. The Federal charge codes are as follows:

- Federal Charge Code 34 - Cuban Entrants;
- Federal Charge Code 35 - Cuban/Haitian Unaccompanied Entrant Minor; and
- Federal Charge Code 36 - Haitian Entrants.

Any cases currently coded with Federal Charge Codes 34, 35 or 36 in the Welfare Management System (WMS) must be evaluated by the LDSS to determine if the federal charge code should be **deleted or converted** as appropriate. After the necessary system changes have been implemented, the above codes, if entered, will create an error, "Invalid FED Charge Code".

CUBAN AND HAITIAN ENTRANTS

Cuban/Haitian Entrants have the same potential eligibility for the Refugee Assistance Programs (RCA and RMA) as Refugees. Eligibility for RCA/RMA is limited to eight months from the date the refugee entered the United States or, if already in the United States, eight months from the date the refugee acquired their immigration status. As of the date of this message the LDSS workers are to use **Federal Charge Code 30** (Refugee Assistance Programs) for Cuban and Haitian Entrants receiving RCA and/or RMA. Federal Charge Code 30 (100% Federal Financial Participation) is to be used only for the initial eight-month eligibility period.

Individuals with Federal Charge Codes 34 and 36 who have completed the eight-month eligibility period must have the federal charge code deleted. Those individuals within the initial eight-month eligibility period must be converted to Federal Charge Code 30 (Refugee Assistance Programs) for the remainder of their eight-month eligibility period, if otherwise eligible.

UNACCOMPANIED ENTRANT MINOR

Federal Charge Code 31 (Unaccompanied Refugee Minor) should be used for Cuban/Haitian - Unaccompanied Entrant Minors. An Unaccompanied Refugee Minor is a child under 18 years of age who:

- entered the United States without a parent, adult relative, or adult with legal custody of the child; and
- has no parent living in the United States; or
- has no adult relative willing or able to care for the child; or
- has no adult with legal custody of the child with whom the child can reside.

Unaccompanied Entrant Minors with Federal Charge Code 35 should have their federal charge code changed to Federal Charge Code 31. Federal Charge Code 31 should be deleted once the minor reaches the age of 18.

Any questions may be directed to Vicki Rockefeller or Shirley Race at (518)-474-8887.