

WGIUPD

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

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**DIVISION:** Office of Health Insurance Programs

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**GIS 09 MA/024**

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

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

**SUBJECT:** COBRA Premiums and the Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

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

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to advise local districts of a change in the Department's policy regarding the definition of employer sponsored insurance for purposes of the Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program (FHP-PAP).

Informational Letter 08 OHIP/INF-6, "Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program: Frequently Asked Questions", states that COBRA coverage is not considered employer sponsored insurance because the employer is not contributing toward the cost of the premium; therefore the premiums would not be eligible for payment through the FHP-PAP. Effective immediately the Department will now allow COBRA premiums to be paid under the FHP-PAP program for FHPlus eligibles when the health insurance meets the standard benefit package and passes the FHP-PAP cost effectiveness test in accordance with 08 OHIP/ADM-01, "Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program".

Please direct any questions to the Local District Support Unit at (518)474-8887 Upstate and (212)417-4500 for NYC.