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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 96 LCM-50

Date: May 24, 1996

Division: Health and Long
Term Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Changes In Transportation for
Mentally Retarded/Developmentally Disabled Recipients

ATTACHMENTS: None

PURPOSE

This letter communicates a change in the way in which transportation is arranged and paid for recipients who attend Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) Medicaid day services and also for recipients who reside in certain OMRDD certified residential programs. This change applies to both voluntary and state operated programs and residences.

OMRDD DAY SERVICES CHANGES

OMRDD day treatment programs and OMRDD day services under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver will now be responsible for assuring the provision of transportation to recipients attending their programs. Programs will be expected to cover the costs of the transportation to and from these services for dates of service on or after July 1, 1996. Social service districts will discontinue the authorization of trips to these services, and providers will no longer be able to bill Medicaid on a fee-for-service basis for dates of service after June 30, 1996. Programs will need to provide transportation themselves or make arrangements for the provision of transportation to and from program sites.

This does not affect continuing day treatment programs that are certified by the Office of Mental Health (OMH). Transportation to OMH programs will continue to be prior authorized and paid on a fee-for-service basis.

OMRDD RESIDENTIAL CHANGES

OMRDD certified residential programs affected by this change are: Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs), Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), and Community Residences (CRs). These programs will now be responsible for assuring the provision of transportation (other than ambulance) to medical appointments (including clinic visits) for recipients living in these residences. Fee-for-service billing for transportation services will no longer be permitted for trips provided to recipients living in these settings as of July 1, 1996. Social service districts will discontinue the authorization of trips for recipients living in these residences. Residential staff will either provide the transportation, or arrange and pay for the provision of this service.

The only exception is ambulance service, which will continue to be provided on a fee-for-service basis.

It will not be the residence's financial responsibility to transport individuals to day program services; this will be the responsibility of the day program.

Please note that recipients residing in OMRDD Residential Private Schools, as well as people with developmental disabilities who live at home with family, continue to receive fee-for-service transportation to medical appointments which is authorized by Social Service Districts.

Residential Private Schools:

Bradhurst Center Corporation
Hawthorne, New York

Camphill Village, U.S.A., Inc.
Copake, New York

Crystal Run Village, Inc.
Middletown, New York

Crystal Run Village, Inc.
South Fallsburg, New York

Devereux Foundation, Inc.
Red Hook, New York

Ferncliff Manor for the Retarded
Yonkers, New York

Hebrew Academy for Special Children
Parkville, New York

Lochland School, Inc.
Geneva, New York

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Maryhaven Center of Hope, Inc.
Port Jefferson Station, New York

Pathfinder Village, Inc.
Edmeston, New York

Upstate Home for Children
Oneonta, New York

Also, recipients living in Office of Mental Health residential programs will continue to receive fee-for-service transportation to medical appointments.

NECESSARY ACTIONS

The current transportation reimbursement amounts for OMRDD day transportation established between social service districts and transportation providers will be null and void for transports after June 30, 1996. Day programs themselves will need to establish reimbursement amounts and methods of payment for these services, or provide them directly. Medical trip rates for ICFs, CRs, and IRAs are also null and void as of July 1, 1996. If these residential programs choose to purchase medical transportation, new prices will need to be negotiated between transporters and residences.

Districts who have contracts with transportation providers for these affected transports will need to escape from those contractual obligations.

The Department intends to change the procedure code file by prohibiting payments on applicable codes for dates of services July 1, 1996 onward. District staff and Department staff will coordinate this effort.

For further information, please contact Mary Kelley Cherubin of the Transportation Policy Unit at 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-4929, or by Sperrylink User Identification Number 89a630.

Richard T. Cody
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Health and Long Term Care