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

Transmittal No: 96 LCM-65

Date: July 25, 1996

Division: Health and Long
Term Care

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Update on Department of Social Services/Department of
Correctional Services Eyeglass Project

ATTACHMENTS: None

The Department of Social Services(DSS)/Department of Correctional Services(DOCS) Eyeglass Project has been successfully operational since the complete phase-in of all counties outside of New York City as of October, 1994.

The volume of orders for the first full year of implementation, April, 1994-March, 1995 was 87,471. Volume for the second year of operation, April 1995- March 1996, increased thirty-two percent amounting to 115,600 orders. According to current statistics, DOCS has adhered to designated fabrication time frames as specified in the Cooperative Agreement between DOCS and this Department. Eighty-nine percent of stock orders are shipped within two days. Eighty percent of non-stock(surfaced) orders are shipped within four days. These orders require lenses that are ground by machine. The maximum time frames allowed for shipping under the Cooperative Agreement, calculated from the date of receipt of an order, is five days for stock orders and ten days for non-stock orders.

The Department has periodically surveyed providers about the quality of fabrication and timeliness of orders. DOCS has been responsive to the concerns of the providers and the Department.

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DOCS has had discussions with DSS and the Department of Health(DOH) regarding the provision of eyeglasses under managed care. Managed care plans cannot be required to use DOCS optical services for Medicaid recipients. However, managed care plans may wish to use DOCS in their eyecare networks for Medicaid recipients only. A plan has the option of contracting with DOCS as it would any other vendor, and DOH is available to provide technical assistance.

If you have any questions regarding the DSS/DOCS Eyeglass Project, please contact Myrna Bernstein, Division of Health and Long Term Care at: 1-800-343-8859, ext.41713, User ID Omb090.

Martin J. Conroy
Acting Deputy Commissioner