

	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN</b> COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	<b>SUBJECT</b>  Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner	<b>BY</b>   Eileen M. Schoen Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
<b>NUMBER:</b>	99-90-05, 1144-90-01	
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	July 31, 1990	
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	July 1, 1990	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce the Department's intent to reimburse Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP) for their services effective July 1, 1990, in accordance with requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (OBRA '89).

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all CRNPs and enrolled providers or practitioners in the Medical Assistance Program who are affiliated with this new provider group.

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 19, 1989, the President signed into law the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, P.L. 101-239. Section 6505 of this law mandates that the Medical Assistance Program pay for services provided by pediatric and family nurse practitioners, effective July 1, 1990.

**DISCUSSION:**

Beginning July 1, 1990, the Medical Assistance Program will cover services provided by CRNPs for categorically and medically needy recipients. While states are mandated to reimburse for services provided by family and pediatric nurse practitioners, the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Program will cover services provided by any CRNP regardless of the specific certification. This decision was based on the fact that all certifications recognized by the State Board of Nursing fall within family health categories which cover all age groups from birth until death.

As a medical assistance participation requirement, registered nurses must be certified by the State Board of Nursing in compliance with Section 7 (b) of the Professional Nursing Law, Act of May 22, 1951, P.L. 317, as amended 63 P.S. §217 (b).

**The Department will enroll those CRNPs who are not employed by or under contract to a medical service provider or practitioner.** For those CRNPs employed by or under contract to an enrolled medical service provider or practitioner, the Department will recognize their services, but will reimburse the enrolled practitioner or provider for whom the CRNP works. The Department will enroll CRNPs employed as school nurses but will make payments to the individual school district.

CRNPs enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program must comply with the provisions of 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1101 (relating to general provisions), and the payment policies in 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1150 (relating to program payment policies) and Chapter 1144 (relating to certified registered nurse practitioner services). Services provided by CRNPs are not exempt from copayment requirements as defined in 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1101.

**POLICY:**

Effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1144 (relating to certified registered nurse practitioner services) will include the participation requirements and payment policies for certified registered nurse practitioners. Covered procedures and maximum fees will appear in the Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule. The scope of nurse practitioner services will be limited according to the CRNP specialty.

As part of the enrollment process, the CRNP will be required to identify by name and address the physician who directs their medical services, the CRNP 9 digit certification number, and provide the Department with a copy of the written protocol that exists between the CRNP and the physician.

**Chapter 1144 – Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner Services**

The Medical Assistance Program provides payment for specific medically necessary certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) services rendered to eligible recipients by CRNPs enrolled as providers under the program. Payment for CRNP services is subject to the provisions of this Chapter, Chapter 1101 (relating to general provisions), Chapter 1150 (relating to medical assistance program payment policies), and limitations established in the Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule.

§1144.2. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner, C.R.N.P. – A registered nurse duly licensed in this Commonwealth who is certified by the State Board of Nursing in a particular clinical specialty area.

CRNP Services – Any care provided within the scope of a CRNP professional practice and licensure.

Direction – Physician supervision of the CRNPs performance of medical acts as defined in the rules and regulations of the State Board of Nurse Examiners (49 Pa. Code §21.251).

SCOPE OF BENEFITS

§1144.21. Scope of benefits for the categorically needy.

Categorically needy recipients are eligible for all medically necessary CRNP services compensable under the Medical Assistance Program.

§1144.22. Scope of benefits for the medically needy.

Medically needy recipients are eligible for all medically necessary CRNP services compensable under the Medical Assistance Program.

§1144.23. Scope of benefits for State Blind Pension recipients.

State Blind pension recipients are not eligible for CRNP services unless they are also either categorically or medically needy.

§1144.41. Participation requirements.

Participation requirements are established in §§1101.41 - 1101.43 (relating to provider participation, prerequisites for participation and provider enrollment procedures).

§1144.42. Ongoing responsibilities of providers.

Ongoing responsibilities of providers are established in Chapter 1101 (relating to general regulations).

In addition, certified registered nurse practitioners must furnish to the Department:

- (1) the identify of the physician providing medical direction as defined in §1144.2, and
- (2) the established physician/certified registered nurse practitioner protocols.

§1144.51. General payment policy.

Payment is made for compensable CRNP services provided by participating CRNPs subject to the conditions and limitations established in this Chapter, Chapter 1150 (relating to the medical assistance program payment policies), the Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule, and Chapter 1101 (relating to general provisions).

§1144.52. Payment conditions.

Payment will be made to a CRNP for services furnished if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The CRNP does not have a financial arrangement to provide the services as an employee or is under contract to an enrolled medical service provider or practitioner; and
- (2) The services billed to the Department are furnished by the CRNP in collaboration with and under the direction of a physician licensed to practice medicine in Pennsylvania.

§1144.53. (Reserved).

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§1144.55. Noncompensable services.

Payment will not be made for:

(1) Procedures not listed in the Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule or precluded by Chapter 1150 (relating to the medical assistance program payment policies);

(2) Services and procedures furnished by the CRNP for which payment is made to an enrolled medical service provider or practitioner;

(3) Services and procedures for which payment is available through other public agencies or private insurance plans as described in §1101.64 (relating to third party medical resources); and

(4) The same service and procedure furnished to the same recipient by a CRNP and physician on the same day.

#### **UTILIZATION CONTROL**

§1144.71. Scope of claims review procedures.

All claims submitted for payment under the Medical Assistance Program are subject to the utilization review procedures established in Chapter 1101 (relating to general provisions).

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

§1144.81. Provider misutilization.

Providers determined to have billed for services inconsistent with Medical Assistance Program regulations, to have provided services outside the scope of customary standards of medical practice or to have otherwise violated the standards set forth in the provider agreement, are subject to the sanctions described in Chapter 1101 of this title (relating to general provisions).

#### **PROCEDURE:**

CRNPs who qualify and wish to participate in the Medical Assistance Program should contact the Department for enrollment information by writing to:

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare  
Office of Medical Assistance Programs  
Support Services Section  
P.O. Box 8045  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

#### **Please Note:**

As explained under the Discussion section of this bulletin, CRNPs employed by other medical providers or practitioners (e.g., physicians or clinics) may not bill the Department directly for their services. –The enrolled provider or practitioner who employs the CRNP must bill for the service provided by the CRNP. In those situations, the enrolled provider must list the name of the CRNP providing the service in Item 23 of the Physicians Invoice or Medical Services/Supplies Invoice (MA319/319C) and the CRNPs 9 digit certification number in Item 24 of the MA 319/319C.

#### **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

Outpatient Programs Div., Practitioner Services Section  
P.O. Box 8046, Harrisburg, PA 17105

1-800-537-8862

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).