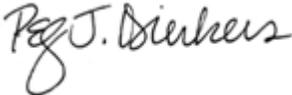


	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Change in Recipient Access to Chiropractic Services in the Managed Care Delivery System	BY  Peg J. Dierkers, Ph.D. Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
NUMBER:	99-99-07	
ISSUE DATE:	October 22, 1999	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	November 1, 1999	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify all providers that effective November 1, 1999, recipients enrolled in either HealthChoices, the Department's mandatory managed care program, or a voluntary Medical Assistance managed care organization (MCO) do not need a referral from the Primary Care Provider (PCP) to access chiropractic services.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program.

BACKGROUND:

Act No. 1999-1A, signed on May 5, 1999 included the following provision: "The Department of Public Welfare shall not require a recipient to obtain a physician referral in order to receive chiropractic services." This provision governs all MCOs under contract with the Department of Public Welfare.

DISCUSSION:

Effective November 1, 1999, recipients enrolled in HealthChoices and voluntary managed care may access chiropractic services without referral from the PCP.

This requirement does not affect other MCO policies and procedures related to the recipient of these services. MCOs may continue to:

1. Limit recipient members' access to in-network chiropractors in accordance with the Request for Proposal and contractual access standards.
2. Enforce Department approved prior authorization policies and procedures related to access to chiropractic services, with the exception of PCP referrals.
3. Enforce Department approved prior authorization policies and procedures related to any service ancillary to chiropractic services such as x-rays.
4. Apply service limits consistent with the Medical Assistance regulations.

This bulletin is obsolete effective July 1, 2000.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate HealthChoices or voluntary managed care organization.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.