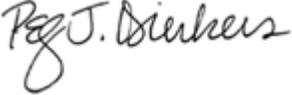


	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Voluntary Managed Care Organization's Payment Responsibility for Emergency Room Services	BY  Peg J. Dierkers, Ph.D. Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
NUMBER:	17-00-03	
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EFFECTIVE DATE:	November 28, 2000	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify payment responsibility for emergency room (ER) services, including those services categorized as mental health or drug and alcohol related and ER evaluations for involuntary commitment pursuant to the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976, as provided to recipients enrolled in a Voluntary Managed Care Organization (MCO).

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies **ONLY** to Voluntary MCOs under contract with the Department to provide managed care services to MA recipients. The affected Voluntary MCOs are as follows:

- MCO # 03 - Three Rivers / Medplus
- MCO # 10 - UPMC / Best Health Plan
- MCO # 11 - Gateway Health Plan
- MCO # 12 - HRM / HealthMATE
- MCO # 28 - AMERIHEALTH

DISCUSSION:

The Voluntary MCO Provider Agreements state that the MCO is responsible for the provision of all Emergency Services to members experiencing an Emergency Medical Condition that meets "prudent layperson" standards as defined in the Agreement section A.1. The term "Emergency Services" includes ER services necessary to treat emergencies categorized as "mental health" and "drug and alcohol" related, as well as ER evaluations for voluntary and involuntary commitments pursuant to the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976. The Voluntary MCO Provider Agreements contain no exception to the obligation as described above, and as such, the contractor is responsible for the payment of all ER services meeting "prudent layperson" standards, to include ER evaluations for voluntary and involuntary commitments pursuant to the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976.

Providers who render ER services to Voluntary MCO members are instructed to remit service claims to the appropriate Voluntary MCO for payment. Do not remit these claims to the Department's Fee for Service Program.

<p>COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:</p> <p>The appropriate voluntary managed care organization.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.</p>
