



# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

<b>ISSUE DATE</b> October 20, 2008	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> October 18, 2008	<b>NUMBER</b> 99-08-16
<b>SUBJECT</b> Increase to Maximum Medical Assistance Payment to Practitioners for Services Provided During a Period of Hospitalization		<b>BY:</b>  Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers that the maximum payment limit for services provided by a practitioner to a Medical Assistance (MA) recipient during any one period of hospitalization will increase to \$1,250, effective with hospital discharges on and after October 18, 2008.

## SCOPE

This bulletin applies to providers enrolled in the MA Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system, including ACCESS Plus. Providers who render services in the managed care delivery system will receive payment as established by the policies of the appropriate managed care organization.

## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Section 2 of Act 2008-44 amended the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L. 31, No. 21), known as the Public Welfare Code, to add section 443.10. Section 443.10(3) authorizes the Department of Public Welfare (Department) to establish the maximum payment limit for services provided by a practitioner to an MA recipient during a period of hospitalization by publication of notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The current maximum payment limit, set forth in MA regulation at 55 Pa.Code § 1150.51(e) (relating to general payment policies), is \$1,000. To more closely reflect industry standards and to encourage continued provider participation in the MA Program, and having issued notice, to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 18, 2008, the Department will increase the maximum payment limit for all services provided by a practitioner to an MA recipient during any one period of hospitalization to \$1,250.

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

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type or managed care organization.

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

## **PROCEDURE**

Effective October 18, 2008, the maximum payment to a practitioner for all services provided to an MA recipient during any one period of hospitalization will be the lowest of:

- (1) The practitioner's usual charge to the general public for the same service.
- (2) The MA maximum allowable fee.
- (3) A maximum payment limit of \$1,250, unless a procedure provided during the hospitalization has a fee which exceeds \$1,250, in which case that fee is the maximum payment for the period of hospitalization.

Providers should continue to follow established billing procedures.