



# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

<b>ISSUE DATE</b> February 9, 2009	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> March 1, 2009	<b>NUMBER</b> 18-09-02, 24-09-01, 25-09-01, 31-09-01
<b>SUBJECT</b> Removal of Prior Authorization Requirement for Eyeglass Lenses		 Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) is no longer requiring prior authorization (PA) for eyeglass lenses, effective with dates of service on and after March 1, 2009.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all physicians, optometrists, medical suppliers and pharmacies enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program. Physicians, optometrists, medical suppliers and pharmacies who provide services to MA recipients under the managed care delivery system should address any PA questions to the appropriate managed care organization.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The MA Program provides for medically necessary eyeglass lenses to eligible MA recipients as follows:

- Children under 21 years of age; and
- Adults diagnosed with aphakia.

In the past, the Department required that providers obtain prior approval before dispensing eyeglass lenses. Upon review, the Department determined that the majority of PA requests for eyeglass lenses are routinely approved as medically necessary. In order to expedite the provision of services, the Department is no longer requiring PA for any eyeglass lenses. This will decrease the administrative burden for both providers and the Department.

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

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

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 with dates of service on and after March 1, 2009, PA is no longer required for eyeglass lenses prescribed for children under 21 years of age or for adults 21 years of age or older who have a diagnosis of aphakia.

When a child has a medical need for more than four (4) lenses within 365 days from the date lenses were first dispensed, prescribers may request an 1150 Administrative Waiver, i.e., Program Exception (PE), to obtain Department approval for additional prescribed eyeglass lenses. Detailed information regarding the PE process is located in Section 7 of the Provider Handbooks and Billing Guides. The Provider Handbooks and Billing Guides may be accessed using the following link: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders/PROMISe/003675041.htm>. Providers are to follow the handbook instructions when submitting PE requests.

**NOTE:** Adults 21 years of age and older are only eligible for eyeglass lenses if they have a diagnosis of aphakia. As such, the claim for eyeglass lenses must include the informational modifier VP to indicate the adult MA recipient has aphakia. Failure to use the VP informational modifier will result in claim denial.

**NOTE:** Providers are reminded to use the modifiers RT (Right), LT (Left) or 50 (Bilateral) in the applicable fields on their claims to reflect the applicable prescribed lens(es). Providers are to refer to the Provider Billing Guides at the website link identified above in order to ensure accuracy in completing their claim(s).