

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE March 20, 2009	EFFECTIVE DATE March 20, 2009	NUMBER 99-09-03
SUBJECT Clarification of Procedures for Responding to Requests for Copies of Medical Assistance (MA) Recipients' Bills	 Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide procedures for responding to requests for copies of MA recipients' bills.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the MA Program including those providers who participate in one of the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) under contract with the Department of Public Welfare (Department).

BACKGROUND:

Bulletin 99-03-15 provided procedures for responding to requests for copies of MA recipients' bills. With the implementation of HealthChoices, the Department's Division of Third Party Liability (TPL) assumed responsibility for the recovery of all casualty claims for accidents that occurred after February 1, 1997. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) allows release of patient medical records to the recipient or their personal representative who has medical decision-making power, or an attorney or insurer with signed authorization from the patient. As a result, regardless of whether or not the recipient is enrolled in an MCO, all requests for copies of MA recipients' bills accompanied by proper signed authorization should be honored, but the Department requires copies of the requests and bills be sent to TPL.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Department of Public Welfare – Division of Third Party Liability – Recovery Section
(717) 772-6604

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

PROCEDURE:

When MA recipients, their personal representative who has medical decision-making power, or an attorney or insurer with a signed authorization from the MA recipient request copies of MA recipients' bills, the provider should release the copies to the requestor. The provider is also required to submit copies of the request and bills to TPL at the following address:

**Department of Public Welfare
TPL Recovery Section
P.O. Box 8486
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8486**

All providers enrolled in the MA Program must follow this procedure for all requests for copies of MA recipients' bills, including recipients enrolled in an MCO.

The TPL Recovery Section will take action to recover MA payments when it is determined legal action has been initiated in conjunction with these requests.

THIS BULLETIN REPLACES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN 99-03-15