



ISSUE DATE November 30, 2009	EFFECTIVE DATE July 1, 2009	NUMBER 99-09-11
SUBJECT Recipient Access to Chiropractic Services		BY  Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify all providers that effective July 1, 2009, Medical Assistance (MA) recipients enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare’s (Department) HealthChoices mandatory MA managed care program, a voluntary managed care organization (MCO) or the Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system, including ACCESS Plus, do not need a referral from the Primary Care Provider (PCP) in order to access chiropractic services.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all enrolled MA Program providers who provide services to MA recipients enrolled in the managed care or FFS delivery system, including ACCESS Plus.

BACKGROUND:

Act No. 10A, signed on October 9, 2009, includes the following provision: “When making payments for MA outpatient or capitation services, the Department shall not require a recipient to obtain a physician referral in order to receive chiropractic services.” This provision governs chiropractic services covered under the MA Program delivered under the FFS or managed care delivery systems.

DISCUSSION:

Effective July 1, 2009, recipients enrolled in HealthChoices, a voluntary MCO or under the FFS delivery system, including ACCESS Plus, may access chiropractic services without a referral from the recipient’s PCP.

This requirement does not affect other coverage and payment procedures related to the receipt of chiropractic services. Service limits consistent with MA regulations will continue. In addition, MCOs may continue to:

<p>COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:</p> <p>The appropriate HealthChoices, voluntary managed care organization or ACCESS Plus toll-free number.</p> <p>Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders</p>
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1. Limit recipient members' access to in-network chiropractic services 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 referral.
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 MA regulations.

This bulletin obsoletes and replaces MA Bulletin 99-08-11 issued August 4, 2008.

This bulletin is obsolete effective July 1, 2010.