



ISSUE DATE October 8, 2010	EFFECTIVE DATE July 1, 2010	NUMBER 99-10-12
SUBJECT Recipient Access to Chiropractic Services		BY  Izanne Leonard-Haak, Acting Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that Medical Assistance (MA) recipients cannot be required to obtain a referral from the Primary Care Provider (PCP) in order to access chiropractic services.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the MA Program and providing services to MA recipients in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system, including ACCESS Plus, or the managed care delivery system.

BACKGROUND:

The Act of July 6, 2010, P.L., No. 46, amending The Fiscal Code, includes the following provision: “When making payments for MA outpatient or capitation services, the Department [of Public Welfare] shall not require a recipient to obtain a physician referral in order to receive chiropractic services.” This provision has been in The Fiscal Code since 1997.

DISCUSSION:

Recipients receiving services under either the managed care delivery system or 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 limitations and payment procedures related to chiropractic services. See 55 Pa.Code, Chapter 1145, Chiropractors’ Services.

In addition, Managed Care Organizations (MCO) 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 to in-network chiropractic services, in accordance with contractual access standards.
2. Enforce Department of Public Welfare (Department) approved prior authorization policies and procedures related 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 the MCO's contract with the Department and MA Program regulations.

This bulletin obsoletes and replaces MA Bulletin 99-09-11 issued November 30, 2009.