

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

SUBJECT: COBRA Premiums and the Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Liaison
Upstate (518)474-8887 NYC (212)417-4500

The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to advise local districts of a change in the Department's policy regarding the definition of employer sponsored insurance for purposes of the Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program (FHP-PAP).

Informational Letter 08 OHIP/INF-6, "Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program: Frequently Asked Questions", states that COBRA coverage is not considered employer sponsored insurance because the employer is not contributing toward the cost of the premium; therefore the premiums would not be eligible for payment through the FHP-PAP. Effective immediately the Department will now allow COBRA premiums to be paid under the FHP-PAP program for FHPlus eligibles when the health insurance meets the standard benefit package and passes the FHP-PAP cost effectiveness test in accordance with 08 OHIP/ADM-01, "Family Health Plus Premium Assistance Program".

Please direct any questions to the Local District Support Unit at (518)474-8887 Upstate and (212)417-4500 for NYC.