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WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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DIVISION: Health and Long Term Care

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TO: Local Commissioners, Transportation Staff, MA Directors,
Prior Authorization System Data Entry Staff
FROM: Richard T. Cody, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Health & Long
Term Care
SUBJECT: Medicaid Transportation Policy, Payment, and
Authorization Changes

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1996

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THE OFFICE OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OMRDD) HAS FILED REGULATIONS WHICH AFFECT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DELIVERED AFTER JUNE 30, 1996. FROM JULY 1, 1996 ON, TRANSPORTATION WILL EITHER BE PROVIDED, OR ARRANGED AND REIMBURSED, BY OMRDD DAY PROGRAMS AND CERTAIN OMRDD RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

OMRDD RESIDENTIAL CHANGES

- OMRDD CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE ARE: INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES (ICFS), INDIVIDUALIZED RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES (IRAS), AND COMMUNITY RESIDENCES (CRS). TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS (INCLUDING CLINIC VISITS) WILL BE THE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESIDENCE. TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS WHO HAVE BEEN PROVIDING THIS SERVICE SHOULD NO LONGER BILL MEDICAID ON A FEE-FOR-SERVICE BASIS FOR TRIPS PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS LIVING IN THESE FACILITIES ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1996. DISTRICTS WILL NEED TO DISCONTINUE THE AUTHORIZATION OF TRIPS FOR RECIPIENTS LIVING IN THESE SETTINGS. RESIDENTIAL STAFF WILL EITHER PROVIDE THE TRANSPORTATION, OR ARRANGE AND PAY FOR THE PROVISION OF THIS SERVICE.

THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS AMBULANCE SERVICE WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE AUTHORIZED BY YOU AND PROVIDED ON A FEE-FOR-SERVICE BASIS.

IT WILL NOT BE THE RESIDENCE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF RECIPIENTS TO DAY PROGRAM SERVICES; THIS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DAY PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

PLEASE NOTE THAT RECIPIENTS RESIDING IN OMRDD RESIDENTIAL PRIVATE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WHO LIVE AT HOME WITH FAMILY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FEE-FOR-SERVICE MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED BY DISTRICTS. THIS IS ALSO TRUE FOR RECIPIENTS LIVING IN OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

OMRDD DAY SERVICES CHANGES

OMRDD CERTIFIED DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS AND DAY SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER OMRDD'S HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVER WILL NOW INCLUDE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THEIR SERVICES AS A PROGRAM COMPONENT. THESE DAY PROGRAMS WILL, STARTING JULY 1, 1996, COVER THE COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION. SOCIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS WILL NEED TO DISCONTINUE THE AUTHORIZATION OF TRIPS TO THESE SERVICES, AND TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS SHOULD NO LONGER BILL MEDICAID ON A FEE-FOR-SERVICE BASIS FOR DATES OF SERVICE ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1996. THESE CHANGES DO NOT APPLY TO OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUING DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE PROGRAMS STAY THE SAME.

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS:

1. THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO CHANGE THE PROCEDURE CODE FILE BY PROHIBITING PAYMENTS ON APPLICABLE CODES FOR DATES OF SERVICES JULY 1, 1996 ONWARD. DISTRICT STAFF SHOULD TELEPHONE THE CONTACT PERSONS TO COORDINATE THIS EFFORT.
2. DISTRICTS WHO HAVE CONTRACTS WITH TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS FOR THESE AFFECTED TRANSPORTS WILL NEED TO ESCAPE FROM THOSE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS.
3. DISTRICTS WHO NEED TO KNOW WHICH PROGRAMS, RESIDENCES, AND SCHOOLS ARE AFFECTED SHOULD TELEPHONE THE CONTACT PERSONS.

AN LCM WILL BE ISSUED SOON GIVING MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE TRANSITION TO THIS REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY.