



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

August 5, 2005

Informational Letter No. 465

To: All Iowa Medicaid Participating Providers
From: The Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
RE: IowaCare Clarification
Effective Date: July 1, 2005

Dear Provider:

Beginning July 1, 2005, the IowaCare Program expanded medical coverage for uninsured Iowans. However, the services covered and provider network are limited and are not the same as the regular Medicaid Program. Section 249J.7, Code of Iowa specifies the provider network for the IowaCare Program. The only providers covered under IowaCare are the following:

- University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.
- Broadlawns Medical Center.
- The State's four Mental Health Institutions at Cherokee, Clarinda, Independence and Mt. Pleasant.

No other providers will be reimbursed under IowaCare in the current implementation phase for services rendered to Members who have IowaCare eligibility. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise has received some claims from providers outside of the IowaCare network for non-covered services for IowaCare members. Those claims cannot be reimbursed under the law. These claims will be denied.

The Member's IowaCare application states the covered IowaCare providers. Members are informed at the time of enrollment that no other providers are covered. If an IowaCare member visits a provider outside of the IowaCare network, that provider may bill and collect payment from the member for services under their normal process. However, providers outside of the IowaCare network must remind that IowaCare Members that the Member is responsible for the service rendered by non-Iowa Care Providers.

The IowaCare Act does include future benefit and provider network expansions. Beginning March 1, 2006, the IowaCare Act expands coverage to include a comprehensive medical examination. Each member will be required to receive the medical examination within 45 days of enrollment. The provider network for these medical examinations is not limited to the six providers listed above. Section 249J.6 specifies the provider network for the medical examinations, to include participating physicians, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, as well as free clinics, rural health clinics, and federally qualified health centers.

The medical examination service does not begin until March 1, 2006. An informational release will be sent to providers prior to that date with instructions on how to participate in providing that service. Until that date, no services will be covered for any provider other than those listed above, as specified by the Code of Iowa.

For further information about the IowaCare Program, please visit the IME website at: www.ime.state.ia.us. If you have questions about this Informational Letter, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or locally at 515-725-1004.