



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Parris N. Glendening, Governor - Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 19
Hospice Transmittal No. 7
May 26, 2000

TO: Hospice Providers
Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Joseph M. Millstone, Executive Director *JMM*
Office of Health Services

NOTE: Please ensure that the appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

RE: Steps to ensure that a hospice Medicaid enrollee (or a hospice enrollee applying for Medicaid coverage) joins a managed care organization (MCO) that is contracted with the enrollee's hospice program

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the Maryland Medicaid Program's policy concerning an MCO's responsibility when a Medicaid recipient who is already receiving hospice care enrolls in the HealthChoice Program.

When an individual receiving hospice services enrolls in HealthChoice and is assigned to an MCO (either voluntarily or is autoassigned), that MCO must pay for the hospice services in accordance with COMAR 10.09.67.23, whether or not the hospice provider is part of the MCO's network. In order to minimize the occurrence of such situations the following measures will help to ensure that enrollees do not join an MCO that is not contracted with their hospice provider.

Hospice providers should inform their Medicaid enrollees (or patients applying for Medicaid coverage) as soon as possible after they enter hospice care about the MCOs with whom they contract so that enrollees can make an informed choice.

2. DHMH will allow enrollees who are in hospice care to voluntarily change their MCO if they have been autoassigned to an MCO with whom the hospice provider does not contract.
3. Hospice providers should make enrollees aware of the option to change MCOs.

If the enrollee who is in an out-of-network hospice will not voluntarily change MCOs, the currently assigned MCO must authorize and pay for the out-of-network hospice provider to ensure continuity of care. MCOs cannot require hospice patients to transfer from an out-of-network hospice provider to an in-network hospice provider.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Division of HealthChoice Management at (410) 767-1482.

RK/EH/kag