

MEDICAID ALERT

May 3, 2011

Expansion of Attestation of Income, Resources, and Residence for SSI-Related (DAB) Renewals

The purpose of this Medicaid Alert is to advise Client Representatives, Hospitals, Community Based Organizations and Facilitated Enrollers of the provisions of Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2010, which expand attestation of income, resources and a change of residence at renewal for Medicaid recipients who are receiving Community Coverage with Community-Based Long-Term Care (SSI-Related category). This Alert also advises of changes to Social Services Law (SSL) that allow attestation of interest income at application for Family Health Plus (FHPlus) and certain Medicaid applicants.

Effective for renewals received on or after March 1, 2011, SSI-related individuals who are in receipt of Community Coverage with Community-Based Long-Term Care will be allowed to attest to income, resources and a change in residency at the time of renewal. These individuals will continue to be required to document income and resources at the time of **initial application** and when an increase in coverage is requested for Medicaid payment of nursing facility services.

SSI-related individuals will also be required to document income and resources when a change in coverage is required in the community (e.g., moving from Community Coverage **without** Community-Based Long-Term Care to Community Coverage **with** Community-Based Long-Term Care).

If an SSI-related individual is institutionalized and in receipt of nursing facility services, the individual continues to be required to document income and resources at renewal. Additionally, since recipients receiving Community Coverage with Community-Based Long-Term Care will no longer be documenting resources at each renewal, should such individual become institutionalized and require Medicaid coverage for nursing facility services, resource documentation for the full transfer of assets look-back period (up to 60 months) will be required.

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Documentation of health insurance premiums will continue to be required for SSI-related recipients. If a recipient does not provide proof of a health insurance premium but the district has previously documented the available insurance, eligibility will be determined without deducting the amount of the premium. If the recipient needs this deduction to remain eligible for his/her current coverage, send a follow-up request for documentation of health insurance premiums to the recipient. If no documentation is received subsequent to the request, the case will be re-budgeted without the premium amount as a deduction.

Although SSI-related recipients who are in receipt of Medicaid coverage of community-based long-term care services are no longer required to document income at renewal, individuals who are participating in the Medicaid Buy-In Program for Working People with Disabilities must still document that they are employed.

Attestation of Interest Income at Application for Certain Medicaid Individuals

Effective for all applications filed on or after March 1, 2011, FH Plus and Medicaid applicants with no resource test can attest to their **resource generated** interest income. If the amount of reported interest income is questionable and the inconsistent amount could affect eligibility for Medicaid benefits, the applicant may be required to provide follow-up documentation to determine eligibility.

PLEASE SHARE THIS ALERT WITH ALL APPROPRIATE STAFF