



North Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
**Recipient Services MEU**

801 Ruggles Drive – 2501 Mail Service Center - Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2501  
(919) 855-4000

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

William W. Lawrence, Jr., M.D., Acting Director

September 25, 2008

RE: Implementation of Health Coverage for  
Workers with Disabilities

Dear County Director of Social Services:

On November 1, 2008, North Carolina Medicaid will begin a phased implementation of Health Coverage for Workers with Disabilities (HCWD). Many of you may know of this program as the "Ticket to Work" program or the Medicaid "Buy-in" for workers with disabilities. The federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 authorized states to provide this optional coverage, which may involve the purchase of coverage through payment of premiums.

Effective November 1, 2008, Medicaid will provide Medicaid coverage to workers with disabilities ages 16 through 64 who have income greater than 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL), but not greater than 150% of FPL (currently \$1,300 per month). Their resource limit will be the minimum community spouse resource limit (currently \$20,880). These individuals will have the same set of covered services as other full coverage Medicaid recipients. They will be either MAB or MAD with a Medicaid classification of N or G. They will be identified via an individual special use code with a begin date and, if they lose coverage, an end date. Eligibility policy changes will be issued in October.

It is anticipated that many of these individuals will be receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and their disability will be established. Those not receiving SSDI will require a disability determination. However, that determination will be made without regard to whether the individual is engaging in a substantial gainful activity (SGA).

Other regular eligibility requirements will apply, such as citizenship/identity, state & county residence, cooperation with Child Support Enforcement, etc. Countable income and resources will be determined as for any other MAB or MAD group.

We project approximately 1,200 individuals to be eligible under this coverage in the first year.

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Further expansions of the HCWD program are planned. Effective May 1, 2009, coverage will be expanded to include individuals with income up to 200% of FPL. Individuals with income greater than 150% of poverty will have to pay an annual \$50 enrollment fee to the county department of social services.

Effective with the implementation of the new Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), HCWD coverage will be expanded to individuals with income over 200% of FPL. In addition to the annual enrollment fee, these individuals will have to pay a monthly premium. The amount of the premium will be based on the individual's income, and will be paid to the State via the MMIS.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative. For any issues that are not able to be handled through that venue, Mrs. Angela Floyd, Assistant Director for Recipient and Provider Services, will be your point of contact and can be reached at (919) 855-4000.

Sincerely,

William W. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.  
Acting Director

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