



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance

Recipient Services EIS

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Nina M. Yeager, Director
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November 16, 2001

MEMORANDUM

To: County Directors of Social Services
County Directors for Health Departments

From: Nina M. Yeager, Director
Division of Medical Assistance

Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH, Acting Director
Division of Public Health

Subject: New Medicaid Coverage Group

The 2001 session of the General Assembly authorized special Medicaid coverage for women who have been enrolled in and screened for breast and cervical cancer under the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Breast and Cervical Cancer early detection program. This coverage will be available effective January 1, 2002.

Based on historical numbers of women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, the number of recipients under this new coverage group is expected to be small. The administration (processing applications and reviews) will be handled at the Division of Medical Assistance, not in the local department of social services.

The eligibility criteria for this new coverage group are:

- ?? Women who have been enrolled in and screened for breast or cervical cancer under the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and,
- ?? Found to need treatment for breast or cervical cancer including pre-cancerous conditions and early stage cancer and,
- ?? Are uninsured (have no major medical coverage including Medicaid and Medicare).
- ?? Are 18 years of age through age 64, and
- ?? Meet other general eligibility requirements for Medicaid. (For example: citizenship/alien requirements, resident of N.C., not institutionalized.) There is no Medicaid income or resource limit.

The NCBCCCP operates through local health departments, some community health centers and other medical facilities that are contracted to participate as screening providers and coordinators for the program. They are responsible for coordinating all screening and follow-up activities of the program.

The NCBCCCP screening providers will complete a Medicaid eligibility application (DMA-5079) for women who have been screened through the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and found to need treatment for either breast or cervical cancer. The NCBCCCP screening providers will fax the application to the Medicaid Eligibility Unit, Division of Medical Assistance.

The case will remain with the Division of Medical Assistance, Eligibility Unit, for the duration of her treatment or until the woman no longer meets the criteria for Medicaid coverage for Breast or Cervical Cancer Patients. The period of Medicaid eligibility will be based on the individual's course of treatment for cancer established by a statement from her physician. DMA will review the application to determine if the applicant is eligible in other Medicaid aid program/categories. If it is found the applicant is eligible for another Medicaid program, she will not be eligible for this new coverage group. DMA will process the Medicaid application for the woman if she is eligible for a different aid program/category (except for cases requiring a determination of disability) and forward the case to the county department of social services.

The women in this new coverage group will receive a blue Medicaid card, which entitles them to all Medicaid covered services during the period in which treatment for breast or cervical cancer is required. The certification period will end when the course of treatment ends.

Medicaid Program Representatives will be responsible for training local health departments and regional health department staff throughout the month of December. Medicaid eligibility material will be issued to county department of social services to serve as a resource for the program. If you have any questions, please call the Medicaid Eligibility Unit at (919) 857-4019.