

PROVIDER BULLETIN No. 10-04

February 12, 2010

TO: All Medicaid Providers

FROM: Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director 
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

BY: Margaret Booth, Physical Health Services Unit Manager

RE: Billing for Emergency Medical Services for Illegal Aliens

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE, CLINICAL
AND BILLING STAFF.

An illegal alien who meets Medicaid eligibility requirements other than citizenship, may receive Medicaid benefits necessary to treat an emergency medical condition as described below.

An emergency medical condition is defined as a medical condition (including emergency labor and delivery) manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) where the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

1. Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
2. Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
3. Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

The State Review Team (SRT) makes the determination that the client has an emergency medical condition.

Because Medicaid coverage for this eligibility category is limited to emergency services, most illegal aliens will apply for emergency medical assistance only after the services have been provided.

Illegal aliens must apply for Medicaid emergency services through the Department of Health and Human Services. The application process often begins while the individual is still in the hospital. Eligibility must be approved prior to billing Medicaid for the service.

If you have questions regarding billing for hospital services please contact Margaret Booth at 402-471-9380. For questions regarding billing for physician services please contact Margaret Brockman at 402-471-9368.