

PROVIDER BULLETIN No. 10-34

DATE: July 26, 2010

TO: Medicaid Providers

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

BY: Margaret Booth, Physical Health Services Unit Manager

RE: Billing for Labor and Delivery Services for Pregnant Women who are
Illegal Aliens

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

Illegal aliens requesting Medicaid coverage for medical emergencies must meet Medicaid eligibility requirements, other than citizenship. In addition, the medical services must meet the federal definition of "emergency services". Medicaid eligibility will not be authorized until after the emergency service has occurred.

The definition of an emergency medical service includes a vaginal or cesarean delivery, but does not include routine prenatal and postpartum care. The only procedure codes covered are 59409 for a vaginal delivery or 59514 for a cesarean delivery. Global codes that include prenatal and/or postpartum care not emergency services and should not be billed to Medicaid.

Sterilizations do not meet the definition of "emergency services" and are not reimbursable for illegal aliens.

Services for a vaginal or cesarean delivery should be billed using the Medicaid identification number issued to the mother for coverage of emergency services. Services for the mother should not be billed using the Medicaid identification number for the newborn. Billing with the incorrect Medicaid identification number will result in denial of the claim.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, for physician services, please contact Margaret Brockman at 402-471-9368 or margaret.brockman@nebraska.gov. For questions regarding hospital services please contact Margaret Booth at 402-471-9380 or margaret.booth@nebraska.gov.