

November 1, 2011

Dear Local Health Director,

This letter is being sent to inform you of a new plan being offered for payment of tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment services including medication. Beginning November 1, 2011, the Department of Social Services will be providing a new program that offers Medicaid coverage to persons with latent TB infection or TB disease who are uninsured or underinsured and not eligible for regular Medicaid that meet the following requirements: 1) U.S. citizen or legal immigration status (legal permanent resident, conditional entrant, parolee for at least one year, or a battered person who meets specific requirements) **and** 2) Residence in the United States for at least five years. This coverage will only apply to TB-related health care received by the patient including medications, office visits, blood tests, x-rays, and directly observed therapy, and will stop once all TB care and treatment is completed.

All patients who meet the eligibility requirements above should be referred to the program. The two page application form for patients is attached to this letter. For all billing received for services rendered on or after 11/1/2011, the Department of Public Health (DPH) TB Control Program will require the following statements from the provider that the patient is not eligible for this new Medicaid coverage in addition to having no other health care coverage:

“All efforts have been made to obtain third party reimbursement prior to submission of this bill. The patient is not eligible for TB Medicaid coverage”.

“I certify that this is a valid claim in the treatment and care of tuberculosis and has not been paid”.

DPH will continue to pay for TB care and treatment for those persons that are not eligible for this program and have no other insurance.

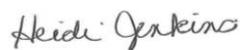
To receive reimbursement for TB care and services provided by your health department staff to patients that are eligible for this program, you need to enroll your health department as a Medicaid provider. The directions for provider enrollment can be found in the attached document entitled “Provider Enrollment Instructions.” This should be done as soon as possible to ensure your ability to bill for patients that are eligible for this new Medicaid coverage or are already Medicaid patients. The DPH TB Control Program will not provide reimbursement for TB care and services provided to patients that are eligible for this new program.

Since medications are also covered by this new program, the method for requesting medication from DPH will also be changing. When you request medication for latent TB infection or disease for your health department supply you may use state provided medication initially for all patients. During the initial 3 month period of therapy for a patient, you should help the patient determine if they are eligible for the new TB Medicaid group and instruct them to apply. If the patient does not qualify or is not eligible for TB Medicaid coverage then you may continue to provide the patient with DPH supplied medication. If the patient does qualify for TB Medicaid coverage or is already a Medicaid patient, then they should be given a prescription to obtain any medication for the remainder of their treatment after three months from a pharmacy who participates in Medicaid. For patients who have started their TB treatment before 11/1/2011, DPH supplied medications may continue to be provided to these patients for the length of their treatment, regardless of whether they are eligible for this new program. However, a patient's eligibility for this new Medicaid coverage still needs to be determined for the purposes of billing for TB care and services.

Please share this letter and enclosed attachments with others in your department that are responsible for TB care and services. If you have any questions about this letter or the new plan, you can contact the TB Control Program at (860) 509-7722. For specific questions related to patient or provider enrollment, please contact the following phone numbers: Patient Enrollment (860) 424-5250; Provider Enrollment (800) 842-8440.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Heidi Jenkins
TB Program Director



Lynn Sosa, MD
Deputy State Epidemiologist