



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 No. 49

June 2002

TO: Providers of Pharmaceutical Services – **For Action**
Health Maintenance Organizations –**For Information Only**

SUBJECT: Co-Payments

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: On March 1, 2002, the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) implemented a Third Party Liability (TPL) initiative for Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare (NJFC) fee-for-service (FFS) pharmacy claims. This initiative requires providers of pharmaceutical services to first bill prescription costs to other insurers that offer a pharmacy benefit and then bill any outstanding co-payment amounts to Unisys, the State's fiscal agent. Any outstanding co-payment amounts are billed to Unisys through the State's point-of-sale (POS) claims processing system. For further information, please see the Medicaid Newsletter Volume 11, No. 17, dated March 2001.

Due to reports of pharmacists requesting the collection of outstanding co-payments from Medicaid/NJFC FFS beneficiaries, DMAHS is distributing this Newsletter to clarify State policy prohibiting the payment of co-payments by Medicaid/NJFC FFS beneficiaries.

ACTION: Any and all co-payments resulting from claim payments by other insurers that offer a pharmacy benefit are the sole responsibility of the New Jersey Medicaid program. Under no circumstances is it appropriate to request and/or collect a co-payment amount from a Medicaid/NJFC FFS beneficiary. Any outstanding co-payment amounts must be billed through the POS system directly to Unisys. The appropriate Other Coverage code must be used by pharmacists requesting State payments.

Since this TPL initiative is limited to Medicaid/NJFC FFS beneficiaries, this requirement does not apply to the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program. In accordance with State policy, appropriate PAAD and Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program co-payment amounts must be collected from PAAD and Senior Gold Prescription Discount beneficiaries.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Services at (609) 588-2724.

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