

TO: All Providers - For Your Information

SUBJECT: ABC Program - Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Medically Fragile Children

BACKGROUND: The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is pleased to announce a new program, the ABC Program, which is a joint venture between DMAHS and the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). This program was developed to help eligible children remain in the community or to return to the community, rather than be cared for in a nursing facility or hospital setting. The effective date for implementation of the program is July 1, 1992.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Newsletter is to inform providers of this new waiver program. The program will be implemented for three years and is renewable for five year periods, as long as Federal requirements are met. The program will have 300 slots in the first year, 400 and 500 in the second and third years respectively.

To be eligible for the program, children must be in need of institutional care and meet, at a minimum, Medicaid nursing facility criteria. Children through the age of 21 who are under the care and supervision of DYFS, whether in their own homes, with extended family or in DYFS placements will be served.

The special services provided under this waiver include: case management, homemaker services, respite care, environmental modifications, specialized medical equipment and supplies, private duty nursing, specialized nutrition, pediatric hospice, special home service provider (SHSP) supervision (care that goes beyond the expectation of ordinary foster parents), SHSP transportation, specialized group foster care homes, and non-legend drugs. In addition to these special services provided under the waiver, all regular Medicaid services, except nursing facility care, are available to the children eligible for the ABC Program.

DYFS has the overall responsibility for administration of the program as well as being the single provider of all services (contracting with individuals/agencies). All providers will bill DYFS directly for waiver services provided under the ABC Program.

NOTE: Medicaid providers who contract with DYFS to provide the special waiver services under the ABC Program are reminded to bill DYFS directly. Services will be ordered by DYFS case managers. However, regular Medicaid services will be reimbursed by Medicaid in the normal manner.

Medicaid District Office staff will perform the initial PreAdmission Screening of all children entering the program and DYFS nurse case managers will perform the reassessment, as well as work directly with families to carry out the individual plans of care.

For additional information regarding this program, please contact Carol Kurland, Administrator, Office of Home Care Programs, at (609) 588-2620.