

TO: Home Health Agencies

SUBJECT: Special Therapies

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services reimburses licensed, Medicare-certified home health agencies for special therapies, which include physical therapy, speech-language pathology services and occupational therapy as prescribed by the recipient's attending physician. These therapies may be provided directly or arranged for by the home health agency.

A recent review of home health services brought to our attention the fact that therapy services were being provided by home health agencies to Medicaid-eligible recipients outside the home setting; specifically in a day program, such as an adult activities center.

ACTION: In accordance with the Division's Home Care Services Chapter such as a private home, residential hotel, residential health care facility, rooming house and boarding home. (In residential health care facilities, homemaker-home health aide or personal care assistant services are excluded from Medicaid coverage.)

In summary, Medicaid does not reimburse for therapies provided by home health agencies when they are utilized by Medicaid recipients outside the place of residence. Providers who have submitted and received payment of claims for services rendered outside the client's place of residence should immediately submit the necessary forms to void the previously paid claims.

NOTE: A day program is not considered the recipient's place of residence.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact Donald P. Hartz, Acting Administrator, Office of Home Care Programs, at (609) 588-2620.

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(BLUE TAB MARKED "5")