

Volume 7 No. 4

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**TO:** All Providers

**SUBJECT:** Sale of the Garden State Health Plan in Bergen, Middlesex and Monmouth Counties

**EFFECTIVE:** February 1, 1997

**BACKGROUND:** In accordance with the Appropriations Act of 1996, P.L. 1995, c. 164, the Treasurer was authorized to take necessary action to effectuate the sale of the Garden State Health Plan (GSHP). Therefore, effective February 1, 1997, the State of New Jersey is selling the operations of the GSHP in three (3) counties: Bergen, Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. This is in addition to the sale in the five (5) counties (Camden, Essex, Hudson, Passaic and Union) that was effective as of June 1, 1996 and announced via Newsletter Vol. 6 No. 14.

The purchaser of GSHP is Managed HealthCare Systems of New Jersey, Inc. (MHS), a licensed Health Maintenance Organization approved to service Medicaid eligibles in these 3 counties.

**ACTION:** Effective February 1, 1997, enrollees who reside in Bergen, Middlesex and Monmouth will no longer be enrolled in the GSHP.

At this time, please note that this announcement **does not apply to GSHP enrollees residing in any additional counties other than the 3 indicated above.** Until further notice, claims for services provided to GSHP enrollees in remaining counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Morris, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren) will be covered in accordance with previously issued GSHP instructions.

It is important for providers to carefully check the monthly Medicaid eligibility card or on-line eligibility systems to confirm HMO enrollment for former GSHP enrollees. Examination of the Medicaid eligibility card or query to on-line eligibility systems will indicate the proper HMO enrollment status of affected clients.

There may still be clients, however, who reside in the 3 counties who carry a Garden State Health Plan “gold” membership card. Therefore, it is important to note that **except in the circumstances discussed below, claims for services provided on or after February 1, 1997 to former GSHP enrollees in the three counties will NOT be honored.** GSHP will remain responsible for claims for services rendered to members in the 3 counties prior to February 1, 1997.

For GSHP enrollees in the 3 counties who are in the hospital as of February 1, 1997, GSHP will be responsible for coverage of the hospital claim. GSHP will also be responsible for physician services associated with the hospitalization. Providers will be furnished with instructions on how to submit claims for this situation via a separate Newsletter.

For those beneficiaries who will now be enrolled in MHS, benefits are in accordance with MHS plan requirements and, except under certain circumstances, services must be provided through the MHS network. MHS can be reached at 1-888-DOC-DENT (1-888-362-3368).

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please contact the GSHP Hotline at 1-800-525-0047, or the GSHP at 1-609-588-3580.

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