



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 No. 67

December 1997

TO: All Essex and Hudson County Providers
All Essex and Hudson County HMOs - For Information

SUBJECT: Non-Emergency (Lower-Mode) Transportation

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: Under Federal regulations, a State Medicaid agency must ensure that transportation is available when necessary for beneficiaries to obtain a Medicaid-covered service. The New Jersey Medicaid program enables beneficiaries to obtain non-emergency, lower-mode (non-ambulance, non-invalid coach/mobility assistance vehicle) transportation service in several ways: 1) as a State-contracted service via livery-type vendors in Essex and Hudson Counties; 2) as a county welfare agency-arranged and/or provided service in the remaining 19 counties; and 3) as a clinic-provided service on a statewide basis.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:50-1.6(a), the least expensive mode of transportation suitable to the individual's needs is to be used.

PURPOSE: This Newsletter provides information concerning a pilot project in which the Essex and Hudson Medicaid District Offices (MDOs) will distribute NJ TRANSIT bus tickets/passes, under prescribed conditions, to certain Medicaid beneficiaries in Essex and Hudson Counties.

Generally, a Medicaid beneficiary may receive a bus ticket/pass from either the Essex or Hudson MDO if (a) he or she is capable of riding a bus; (b) the points of pick up and destination for the purpose of obtaining a Medicaid-covered service are accessible by public transit; and (c) bus service is determined by the MDO to be the least expensive mode of transportation suitable for the beneficiary's needs.

In determining whether or not bus service is the most cost-effective mode of transportation service suitable for a beneficiary's needs, the cost of individual trips during the month by existing Medicaid-reimbursed transportation services, such as invalid coach/mobility assistance vehicle, livery and clinic service, will be compared to the cost of a monthly bus pass. A monthly bus pass may be issued if its cost does not exceed the cost of the individual trips.

NOTE: This pilot project is limited in scope. To qualify, prescribed conditions for participation must be met which include, but are not limited to, a review by the MDO of an individual's (a) functional status, (b) place(s) of destination, (c) ability and willingness to use public transportation for medical appointments, (d) frequency of medical appointments, and (e) previous use of other Medicaid-reimbursed transportation services such as invalid coach/mobility assistance vehicle, livery, and clinic service.

ACTION: If a Medicaid beneficiary in Essex or Hudson County is in need of non-emergency, lower-mode transportation service for the purpose of obtaining a Medicaid-covered service, a toll-free number, **1-800-315-5278**, connects the caller to the Essex MDO, located at 153 Halsey Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ.

If a Medicaid beneficiary in Essex County has a transportation-related question or concern, or would like to obtain additional information concerning the bus ticket/pass pilot project, he or she may contact Kathleen Buckley-Straussl, Director, Essex MDO, at (201) 648-3700.

If a Medicaid beneficiary in Hudson County would like to obtain additional information concerning the bus ticket/pass pilot project, he or she may contact Ellen Keane, Director, Hudson MDO, 438 Summit Avenue, Jersey City, NJ, at (201) 217-7100.

Questions concerning this Newsletter may be directed to Peter K. Rosswaag at (609) 588-2629.

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