

November 1, 2011

Dear TB Provider,

This letter is being sent to inform you of a new plan being offered for payment of tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment services including medication. Beginning November 1, 2011, the Department of Social Services will be providing a new program that offers Medicaid coverage to persons with latent TB infection or TB disease who are uninsured or underinsured and not eligible for regular Medicaid that meet the following requirements: 1) U.S. citizen or legal immigration status (legal permanent resident, conditional entrant, parolee for at least one year, or a battered person who meets specific requirements) and 2) Residence in the United States for at least five years. This coverage will only apply to TB-related health care received by the patient including medications, office visits, blood tests, x-rays, and directly observed therapy, and will stop once all TB care and treatment is completed.

All patients who meet the eligibility requirements above should be referred to the program. The two page application form for patients is attached to this letter. For all billing received for care rendered on or after 11/1/2011, the Department of Public Health (DPH) TB Control Program will require the following statements from the provider that the patient is not eligible for this new Medicaid coverage in addition to having no other health care coverage:

“All efforts have been made to obtain third party reimbursement prior to submission of this bill. The patient is not eligible for TB Medicaid coverage”.

“I certify that this is a valid claim in the treatment and care of tuberculosis and has not been paid”.

DPH will continue to pay for TB care and treatment for those persons who are not eligible for this program and have no other insurance.

To receive reimbursement for TB care and services you provided, you need to enroll as a Medicaid provider if you are not already one. The directions for provider enrollment can be found in the attached document entitled “Provider Enrollment Instructions.” This should be done as soon as possible to ensure your ability to bill for patients that are eligible for this new Medicaid coverage. The DPH TB Control Program will not provide reimbursement for TB care and services provided to patients that are eligible for this new program.

Since medications are also covered by this new program, the method for requesting medication from the TB Control Program will also be changing. When you request medication for a new

patient with latent TB infection or disease and send in a prescription with the initial report form you will receive 3 months of medication for your patient. During this initial 3 month period, the provider/patient should determine if the patient is eligible for TB Medicaid coverage and apply using the attached form unless the patient is already enrolled in Medicaid. If the patient does not qualify for TB Medicaid coverage then a TB-32 (Tuberculosis Therapy and Follow-up Care Report Form) form should be completed and the insurance section should be marked uninsured. In addition, the above statement should be added to the form so that the program is aware that the patient will need payment/medication from our program. If the patient qualifies for TB Medicaid or is already a Medicaid patient then the balance of their medications should be obtained from a pharmacy that participates in Medicaid. Patients who started their TB treatment before 11/1/2011 may continue to receive their medications from DPH for the length of their treatment, regardless of whether they are eligible for this new program. However, a patient's eligibility for this new Medicaid coverage still needs to be determined for the purposes of billing for TB care and services.

Please share this letter and enclosed attachments with others in your practice that provide TB care and services. If you have any questions about this letter or the new plan, you can contact the TB Control Program at (860) 509-7722. For specific questions related to patient or provider enrollment, please contact the following phone numbers: Patient Enrollment (860) 424-5250; Provider Enrollment (800) 842-8440.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Heidi Jenkins
TB Program Director



Lynn Sosa, MD
Deputy State Epidemiologist