

March 28, 2007

*ALL-GENERAL 07-02*

# **MEDICAID BULLETIN**

**TO: Medicaid Providers**

**SUBJECT: Medicaid Transportation Update**

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is providing guidance concerning changes for non-emergency Medicaid transportation (NET) services and how these changes may impact providers. The State of South Carolina has procured regional Brokers to provide NET services effective **May 1, 2007**. The Broker will provide beneficiary services to assist in scheduling NET services.

The Broker will have **no impact** on:

- Emergency ambulance transports (Advanced Life Support [ALS] or Basic Life Support [BLS]).
- Non-emergency transports requiring ALS.
- Non-emergency transports, requiring BLS and the use of a Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) licensed ambulance provider vehicle, that are prior authorized through DHHS Form 216. (i.e. residence to hospital and nursing home to hospital.)
- When the beneficiary is non-ambulatory and a health care professional certifies through DHHS Form 216 that the beneficiary's health condition requires the use of a DHEC licensed ambulance provider transport.

The NET Broker will cover:

- Routine non-emergency transportation to medical appointments for eligible beneficiaries.
- Non-emergency transports requiring BLS, which are planned/scheduled trips (i.e. transport from nursing home to physician's office, nursing home to dialysis center or hospital to residence.)
- Non-emergency wheelchair transports that require use of a lift vehicle and do not require the assistance of medical personnel on board at the time of transport to medical appointments for eligible beneficiaries. These type transports do not require the use of a DHEC licensed ambulance vehicle.

Prior to the delivery of services, the Broker provider network must be approved by DHHS to ensure adequate resources and to avoid interruption in services to our Medicaid beneficiaries. DHHS will continue to closely monitor the Broker's provider network to ensure adequacy of qualified providers.

During this transition period, DHHS is committed to ensuring uninterrupted transportation services for Medicaid beneficiaries to Medicaid sponsored medical services. It is important that there be a smooth transition of transportation services into the brokerage system. Please contact your Medicaid Transportation Program Coordinator at (803) 898-2655, if you have questions about the information contained in this update.

/s/

Robert M. Kerr  
Director

RKM/bmhw

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