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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

August 18, 2011

TO: RYAN WHITE PART B PROGRAM COLLEAGUES IN THE AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, HIV CARE PROGRAM, OFFICE OF AIDS-HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENT PROGRAM, AND OFFICE OF AIDS-PRE-EXISTING CONDITION INSURANCE PLAN

SUBJECT: FEDERAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION GUIDANCE TO RYAN WHITE PROVIDERS WITH RESPECT TO SCREENING FOR ELIGIBILITY IN CALIFORNIA'S LOW-INCOME HEALTH PROGRAM

The California Department of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of AIDS (OA) recently received guidance from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) regarding the timing of eligibility screening for potentially eligible Part A, B, C, and D Ryan White (RW) clients for California's Low-Income Health Program (LIHP) (HRSA Guidance). The purpose of our letter is to communicate OA's expectations of RW Part B-funded programs regarding timing of LIHP eligibility screening.

OA must ensure that all RW Part B-funded program clients are screened for potential eligibility for all other possible payers of health care including LIHP. Therefore, RW Part B-funded programs must immediately develop plans to integrate LIHP into routine eligibility screening for other payer sources. Screening for potential LIHP eligibility and appropriate referrals to LIHP should occur during each client's initial or next eligibility screening process for the following programs: AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), HIV Care Program (HCP), OA-Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program, and OA-Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP).

Some LIHP eligibility requirements are different within each county so RW Part B-funded programs will need to verify the LIHP enrollment policies for their county. A list of contact information for the appropriate LIHP staff in each county accompanies this letter.

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LIHP is being rolled out in all participating counties starting with the ten "legacy" counties that were a part of an initial demonstration project (Alameda, Contra Costa, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Ventura). The program effective date for these LIHPs was July 1, 2011, but final execution of the contracts with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will not occur until September 30, 2011. Some of these counties may be enrolling individuals into their LIHPs pending contract execution, at their own risk, but it is anticipated that all of the ten programs will be operational effective October 1, 2011. The implementation dates for the rest of the local LIHPs will depend on the date that the program is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the date that the contract between the local LIHP and DHCS is executed. DHCS will post on its LIHP Web page the approved program effective dates and contract execution dates as all of the local programs become operational. It is anticipated that all of the local LIHPs will be operational statewide by January 2012.

We would also like to take this opportunity to provide notification that OA will be implementing a change in the frequency of client eligibility screening for ADAP and HCP. HRSA requires semi-annual eligibility screening; therefore, in the near future, OA will change from a 12-month eligibility screening cycle to a 6-month cycle. Additional guidance on this change is forthcoming.

Please call Ayanna Kiburi, Chief, HIV Care Branch, OA, for HCP-related questions at (916) 449-5819 or e-mail at: Ayanna.Kiburi@cdph.ca.gov; or Jill Somers, Chief, ADAP Branch, OA, for ADAP, OA-HIPP, and OA-PCIP-related questions at (916) 449-5942 or e-mail at: Jill.Somers@cdph.ca.gov. Please submit LIHP-related questions to LIHP@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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Office of AIDS



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Jill Somers, Chief
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