

# RECIPIENT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

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Maggie D. Anderson,  
Director

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Medical Services Division

## 2009 Legislative Update

### **SENATE BILL 2167**

#### **Reuse, Recycling, or Resale of Durable Medical Equipment**

This bill indicates: “If a state agency uses state funds to provide free medical equipment to an individual, that state agency shall establish a policy addressing the possible reuse, recycling, or resale value of the medical equipment upon re-placement of the medical equipment by that state agency or upon disuse of the medical equipment by the individual.”

The Department has met with the Durable Medical Equipment suppliers on this change and in the future will be adding information to the Prior Authorization Form. For information on donating, you can contact:

- Your Durable Medical Equipment supplier
- The State Medicaid Office at 701-328-2321 or 1-800-755-2604
- ND Association for the Disabled at 1-500-532-6323 (Leslie)
- Project Hero at 1-218-284-6111
- North Dakota Development Center at 1-701-352-4501 or 1-800-252-4911 (David R.) or
- Easter Seals Goodwill at 1-701-232-1333 (Carol) or 1-701-237-9908 (Cindy)

### **HOUSE BILL 1012**

#### **Appropriation Bill for the Department of Human Services.**

Eligibility related items in this bill are:

- Increase in the medically needy income levels to effective July 1, 2009. This change will reduce or eliminate the recipient liability for recipients who pay for a portion of their medical care.
- Increase in the Healthy Steps income level to 160% (net) of the poverty level effective July 1, 2009.
- Increase in the personal needs allowance for individuals residing in an Intermediate Care Facility or Basic Care Facility from \$50 per month to \$85 per month effective January 1, 2010.
- Authorizes a state supplement of income for LTC recipients who receive SSI benefits and have income of less than \$50 per month.
- Increases the designated burial allowance from \$5,000 to \$6,000 effective August 1, 2009

## What if My Doctor Tells Me I Need to Go Out-of-State for Medical Care?

You must have prior approval from the State Medicaid office, every time you go out of state for medical care.

### The only exceptions are:

- If your medical care provider is within a 50-mile radius from the North Dakota border.
- If an emergency medical situation arises that requires immediate transfer to an out-of-state facility, you do not need prior authorization. In such a situation, you must ask your doctor to contact the State Medicaid office to report the emergency transfer within 48 hours, after the transfer has taken place.

### If your doctor refers you to an out-of-state provider for medical care:

- Ask your doctor to send a request for approval for the out-of-state referral to the State Medi-

caid office in Bismarck, a minimum of two weeks prior to any appointment being scheduled. Your physician's office is aware of the required information that must be sent to the State Medicaid office.

- Contact your county social service office and tell your eligibility worker that you have been referred out of North Dakota for medical care. Your worker will wait until an approval is received from the State Medicaid office and will then help you make arrangements for your transportation, meals, and lodging needs. If you make your own arrangements for meals and lodging, you may not receive the discounts offered by some of the out-of-state Medicaid providers. Medicaid reimbursement for meals and lodging is limited to specific dollar amounts, so you will be responsible for payment of expenses over maximums allowed.

## North Dakota Health Tracks

### Child Health Screening Program

North Dakota Health Tracks (EPSDT) is a preventive health program that is free for children age 0 to 21 that are eligible for Medicaid. Health Tracks pays for screenings, diagnosis, and treatment services to help prevent health problems from occurring or help keep health problems from becoming worse. Health Tracks also pays for orthodontics (teeth braces), glasses, hearing aids, vaccinations, counseling and other important health services. Health Tracks will help schedule appointments for services and will also help arrange transportation to the services. Some services require prior authorization so be sure to check with your screener about these requirements. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact your local County Social Services Office or Public Health Unit.

### Recommended Screening Schedule

Have your child screened at the following times:

- Newborn
- 3- 5 days old
- By 1 Month
- 2 Months
- 4 Months
- 6 Months
- 9 Months
- 1 Year
- 15 Months
- 18 Months
- Annually between age 2 and through 20 years of age.

Each child should be seen by a dentist once the child reaches 3 years of age or earlier if a problem exists. After the initial visit, it is recommended that children see a dentist every six months.



## Disabled Children's Buy-In Coverage

North Dakota Medicaid administers a buy-in program to provide medical assistance to qualifying children with disabilities. Families with incomes up to 200 percent of poverty can “buy in” to Medicaid coverage for a child with a disability.

The program provides comprehensive coverage through Medicaid, including dental and mental health coverage, in return for a premium. Parents can apply at their local county social service office.

To qualify—

- A child must be under age 19; however, coverage may extend through the month in which an eligible child turns 19;
- The child must be considered disabled; according to the Social Security Administration's definition of disability;
- The family's total net countable income cannot exceed 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
- If either of the child's parents has medical coverage available for the child through an employer AND the employer pays at least half of the premium, the child must be enrolled in the private coverage.

- A family can have any private coverage and also qualify for the buy-in.
- Families of qualifying children pay a monthly premium equal to five percent of the family's gross countable income.
- If the child is covered by other health insurance, the premium for Children with Disabilities Medicaid Coverage will be reduced by the amount paid by the family for the other insurance.
- There is no asset limit for this coverage. In other words, children are not disqualified if the family owns a home, more than one car, or other assets.

Children covered under North Dakota's Children with Disabilities Medicaid Coverage are entitled to the same covered services as other Medicaid participants, and they are also subject to the same Medicaid benefit caps and limits. These children are not required to name a Primary Care Physician.

A fact sheet entitled “Children with Disabilities – Medicaid Buy-in Coverage” is available at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/pubs/medical.html>

## Reporting Insurance Changes

### Newborns

Medicaid clients must add newborns to their insurance if available at no additional cost. Check with your insurance or employer on the time frame requirements to add a child to your policy. If you fail to follow the requirements with an insurance company or employer to add a newborn to your policy (at no additional cost) you may be responsible for the medical bills. Medicaid is payer of last resort and all available resources must be utilized prior to Medicaid. Notify your County Eligibility Worker as soon as you have added your newborn to your policy.

### Insurance and Insurance Changes

You must report any new insurance and any insurance changes to your county eligibility worker as soon as possible.

## Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal nutrition program for pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and children younger than 5 and is available in all counties in North Dakota. WIC offers healthy food for proper growth and development, and helps families choose healthier ways of eating, and provides information, counseling, and support.

For more information or to find the nearest WIC office near you, please call

1-800-472-2286 or go to

<http://www.ndhealth.gov/wic>.



## Children with Medically Fragile Needs

North Dakota Medicaid has a waiver available to families who wish to maintain their medically fragile child within the home. Services that are available under the waiver are Transportation / Dietary Supplement/ Individual & Family Counseling/ In Home support / Equipment and Supplies / Environmental Modifications / Institutional Respite / and Case Management.

To qualify for this waiver; a child must:

- Meet the child's income eligibility for Medicaid,
- Meet the Nursing Home Level of Care, and
- Score a 40 or more on the Level of Need (as determined by the child's primary care provider).

Applications can be found at: [www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn00394.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn00394.pdf) or by calling 701-328-3701.



## Vaccinations & Immunizations

### Vaccines and Immunizations within the Coordinated Services Program (CSP)

The following Vaccines and Immunizations will be provided to recipients within the Coordinated Services Program without a referral from their Coordinated Services Provider:

- Influenza (Flu) Vaccine
- Tetanus toxoids or Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids vaccine (DT)
- Tetanus, diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap)

If the recipient receives additional care and/or treatment during the same visit as the immunization/vaccine is provided, the visit will require a referral from the CSP Provider.

### Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu) vaccine

North Dakota Medicaid will cover the administration of H1N1 influenza vaccine, otherwise known as the "swine flu" vaccine. The ND Health Department will be receiving and distributing the H1N1 influenza vaccine to medical providers in North Dakota. For more specific information regarding the vaccine see [www.ndflu.com/swineflu](http://www.ndflu.com/swineflu). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has implemented guidelines in which population the vaccine will be available. This information is located at the CDC's website: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm).

## DHS Privacy Practices

Please note that you can obtain a copy of the DHS Notice of Privacy Practices several ways:

- ◆ Contact Medical Services at (701) 328-2321
- ◆ Contact any County Social Service office
- ◆ Contact the Department of Human Services privacy officer at 1-888-607-8610 or (701) 665-2271
- ◆ View Notice of HIPAA Privacy Practices at: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/misc/hipaa-privacy.html>

*The North Dakota Department of Human Service does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, political affiliation, disability, or status with respect to marriage or public assistance.*

This publication is available in an alternative format through the North Dakota State Library, Disability Services Division, to those people who qualify for the Talking Books Program. (1-800-843-9948 or local 328-1408)

*If you have questions or concerns that you would like us to address in future newsletters, please call the Medical Services Division at 1-800-755-2604.*

We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services>