

**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA  
April 23, 2013**

**IM 5169**

**TO:** County Social Service Directors  
Economic Assistance Policy Regional Representatives  
Economic Assistance Policy Quality Control Reviewers

**FROM:** Maggie Anderson, Director, Medical Services

**SUBJECT: Healthy Steps Children entering a Public Institution**

**PROGRAMS:** Healthy Steps

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

**RETENTION:** Until Manualized

**SECTIONS  
AFFECTED:** 510-07-25-65 Public Institutions and IMD's

Healthy Steps medical, dental and vision claims coverage is not available for individuals in a public institution because such individual's claims are to be covered by the Department of Corrections.

A public institution is an institution that is the responsibility of a governmental unit or over which a governmental unit exercises administrative control, but does not include a medical institution.

An "inmate" of a public institution is not eligible for Healthy Steps unless the eligible individual is a child under the age of 19 who is determined to be continuously eligible. Such child remains eligible for Healthy Steps; however, no medical services will be covered during the stay in the public institution. An "inmate" of a public institution is not eligible for Healthy Steps.

**Examples** include (but are not limited to): North Dakota Youth Correctional Center, Women's Correctional Center in New England, North Dakota State Penitentiary, Bismarck Transition Center, and city, county, or tribal jails.

The Bismarck Transition Center (BTC) is a community-based correctional program designed to help eligible, non-violent offenders transition back into the community, and is a public institution. Individuals entering this facility as "inmates" who are sent to the facility for assessment purposes are committed under the penal system and will be arrested if they leave. Because such individuals are "inmates," they are not eligible for Medicaid or Healthy Steps. (Individuals entering this facility on a voluntary basis while on probation are not "inmates.")

If workers are notified that a Healthy Steps child has entered a public institution, the worker must email Jodi Hulm ([jmhulm@nd.gov](mailto:jmhulm@nd.gov)), Healthy Steps Administrator, at the state office as soon as possible, so she can notify the Healthy Steps vendor. Please include the Healthy Step child's name, Social Security Number, date of birth, date admitted into the public institution and the date of release, if known.

If you have questions, contact your Regional Representative.