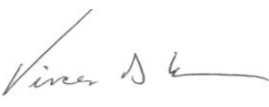




<b>ISSUE DATE</b>  April 16, 2012	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>  May 15, 2012	<b>NUMBER</b>  99-12-03
<b>SUBJECT</b>  Updates to Medical Assistance Copayment Policy		<b>BY</b>   Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers of changes to Medical Assistance (MA) Program sliding scale copayment amounts as specified in MA regulations at 55 Pa.Code § 1101.63(b), related to copayments for MA services. These copayment changes are effective for dates of service on and after May 15, 2012.

**SCOPE**

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the MA Program who render services to recipients enrolled in the MA Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system, including ACCESS Plus. Providers rendering services under the MA managed care delivery system should address any questions to the appropriate managed care organization (MCO).

**BACKGROUND**

Until 2006, Federal Medicaid regulations permitted nominal sliding scale copayments ranging from \$.50 to \$3.00, depending on the amount the Commonwealth pays for the service. The Department of Public Welfare’s (Department) MA sliding scale copayments for MA recipients, other than General Assistance (GA) recipients, have remained fixed at these amounts for many years. For State-funded GA recipients, the Department applies twice the nominal copayments applicable to other MA recipients. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) and implementing regulations increased the maximum Medicaid nominal sliding copayment amounts each year, beginning in 2006, by the annual percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), for the period September to September ending in the preceding calendar year, and rounded to the next higher 5-cent increment.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll-free telephone number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at  
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

## DISCUSSION

MA regulations at 55 Pa.Code § 1101.63(b) identify MA copayment requirements and specify the populations and services excluded from MA copayment requirements. In addition, for services that are not excluded from copayment requirements, § 1101.63(b) identifies whether the services are subject to a fixed copayment amount or to sliding scale amounts based on the MA fee for the particular service.

On April 14, 2012, the Department published final-omitted regulations in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, as authorized under section 403.1 of the Public Welfare Code, amending MA copayment regulations at 55 Pa.Code § 1101.63(b). In this amended regulation, the Department updated the MA sliding scale copayment amounts for MA recipients, other than GA recipients, to reflect the current CPI-U adjustments, and the MA sliding scale copayment amounts for GA recipients to reflect twice the amounts established for MA recipients other than GA recipients.

The amended regulation also allows the Department to, through publication of notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, update the sliding scale copayment amounts on a recurring basis to account for future CPI-U adjustments, based upon the annual percentage increase in the medical care component of the CPI-U, for the period September to September ending in the preceding calendar year, and rounded to the next higher 5-cent increment.

The amended regulation takes effect May 15, 2012.

## PROCEDURE

Effective for dates of service on and after May 15, 2012, the sliding scale copayment amounts for all categories of assistance will change as follows:

<b>Medical Assistance, Other Than General Assistance</b>		
<b>MA Fee for the Service</b>	<b>Current Copayment</b>	<b>Copayment effective May 15, 2012</b>
\$2 - \$10	\$ .50	\$0.65
\$10.01 - \$25	\$1.00	\$1.30
\$25.01 - \$50	\$2.00	\$2.55
\$50.01 or more	\$3.00	\$3.80

<b>General Assistance</b>		
<b>MA Fee for the Service</b>	<b>Current Copayment</b>	<b>Copayment effective May 15, 2012</b>
\$2 - \$10	\$1.00	\$1.30
\$10.01 - \$25	\$2.00	\$2.60
\$25.01 - \$50	\$4.00	\$5.10
\$50.01 or more	\$6.00	\$7.60

**Please note:** some MA recipients, and some services, are excluded from copayment requirements as specified in MA regulations at 55 Pa.Code § 1101.63(b). Providers may not collect copayments from these excluded populations or for these excluded services. In addition, providers are reminded that MA regulations at 55 Pa.Code § 1101.63(b)(8) prohibit

MA providers from denying covered services or items to recipients because of the recipient's inability to pay the copayment amount. This does not change the MA recipient's liability for the copayment and does not prevent the provider from attempting to collect the copayment amount due.

The Department has updated the MA Copayment Desk Reference, which summarizes MA copayment exclusions, copayment fixed and sliding scale amounts, and includes special billing instructions related to copayment exclusions. The updated MA Copayment Desk Reference is attached to this bulletin, and may also be viewed online by clicking on the attachment below.

[Attachment: Copayment Desk Reference](#)