



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Medicaid Purchasing Administration
626 8th Avenue, S.E. • P.O. Box 45502
Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

Dear Client:

This letter is being sent to you because you were identified as a client who is receiving healthcare services from the Medicaid Purchasing Administration in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that DSHS is eliminating coverage of optional healthcare services as a consequence of Executive Order 10-04, which Governor Gregoire issued on September 13, 2010. The Executive Order, which is authorized by RCW 43.88.110(7), imposes a cut of nearly 6.3% in the DSHS budget for the current fiscal year.

As of January 1, 2011, the following optional services will no longer be available. Unless specifically stated, these changes do not apply to children:

A. For Clients 21 years of Age and Older:

- **Dental Services** will no longer be available. Routine and/or non-emergency medical and surgical dental services that can be provided by a licensed health care practitioner including a physician, a doctor of dental medicine or dental surgery, will be eliminated.

Coverage for dentures is also eliminated. Medical and surgical dental services for emergency treatment of pain, infection or trauma of the teeth, mouth, or jaw will continue to be available. These changes do not apply to disabled clients who reside in institutions administered by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, whose treatment is provided and covered by the institution.

- **Hearing Devices** will no longer be available. The services eliminated include hearing aids, cochlear implants or repair of, parts or batteries for such equipment. Hearing assessments performed by a licensed healthcare practitioner will still be available. When it is medically necessary, the removal of cochlear implants will be covered.
- **Foot Care** – some services will no longer be covered. Only services to treat an acute condition will be considered medically necessary. Podiatrists and physicians will be given a list of diagnosis codes that DSHS will consider medically necessary.
- **Outpatient Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapies** will no longer be available. Assessments and treatment for swallowing difficulties and assessments for Durable Medical Equipment, as required under DSHS policy and performed by a licensed healthcare practitioner, will continue to be available.

- **Vision Aids** will no longer be available. The services to be eliminated include eyeglass frames, lenses, and contacts. Eye exams, refractions and fitting services performed by a licensed healthcare practitioner will still be available.

DSHS will complete all authorization requests submitted by midnight on December 31, 2010, for the services described above. If authorized, DSHS will cover the service(s) to be completed after January 1, 2011. In addition, authorization requests approved on or before December 31, 2010 will be covered for the authorization period stated in the approval letter.

Unless authorized by DSHS, any service described above billed with a date of service on or after January 1, 2011, will be denied.

B. For Children in a School Program:

- **School-Based Medical Services:** DSHS will no longer pay school districts for special education-related medical services delivered to Medicaid-enrolled children in special education, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. These school-based health care services include audiology, counseling, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological assessments, speech therapy and evaluations. These services may still be provided by the school district. If your child needs these services and they are not provided by the school, DSHS will still cover these services through Medicaid providers in the community, although not in the school setting. This may mean that you will need to locate a provider in the community to supply these services, if the school will no longer supply them during the school day.

C. For all Clients:

- **Medicare Part D Co-Pays** for pharmacy services will no longer be paid by DSHS for clients who have Medicare D. Co-payments and co-insurance for health plans other than Part D are not affected.

Please use our website at <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/News/Budget.htm> to keep current on changes to this information. Because these benefit changes affect all Medicaid recipients, there is no right for an evidentiary hearing. An evidentiary hearing is a hearing where you can present your facts and testimony. In addition, because there is no right to an evidentiary hearing, there will be no continuation of benefits for any of the terminated services as of December 31, 2010.

Sincerely,
Preston W. Cody
Director
Division of Healthcare Services