

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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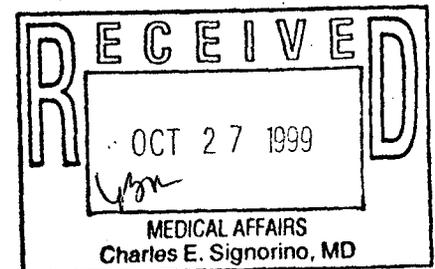
October 20, 1999

FYI

MMCD Policy Letter 99-08

TO: County Organized Health System Plans
 Geographic Managed Care Plans
 Two-Plan Model Plans
 Primary Care Case Management Plans
 Prepaid Health Plans

SUBJECT: ABORTION SERVICES

**BACKGROUND**

The Department of Health Services (DHS) Medi-Cal fee-for-service (FFS) program has rescinded Policy Statement 82-5 and has issued Policy Statement 99-08 (Enclosure I), which states the policy of DHS with regard to abortions performed in the FFS Medi-Cal program. The purpose of this policy letter is to clarify for all Medi-Cal managed care plans (hereafter referred to as the Plans) their contractual requirements regarding the delivery of abortions.

POLICY

Abortion is covered by the Medi-Cal program as a physician service. Abortion is, by definition, a sensitive service. All Plans must implement and maintain procedures that ensure confidentiality and ready access to sensitive services for all members. Plan provider networks must include providers of abortions, or Plans must arrange and pay for abortions from nonnetwork providers. Beneficiaries may not be charged for abortion services. Plans may not require medical justification and/or prior authorization for abortion. However, Plans may require prior authorization for provider requests for inpatient hospitalization for the performance of an abortion. Plans must educate both network providers and members regarding abortion policy and procedures. Plans must hold their providers accountable for ensuring that Medi-Cal policy on abortion is honored.



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If you have any questions regarding this policy letter, please contact your contract manager.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne Hughes".

Susanne M. Hughes
Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division

Enclosure

Memorandum

ENCLOSURE I

Date: June 10, 1999

To: Virgil J. Toney, Jr., Chief
Medi-Cal Operations Division
714 P Street, Room 1540

Carruth J. Wagner, MD, Chief
Medi-Cal Policy Evaluation Branch
Payment Systems Division
714 P Street, Room 950

From: Medi-Cal Policy Division
714 P Street, Room 1640
657-1460

Subject: POLICY STATEMENT 99 08: Abortion

POLICY:

Effective Immediately Policy Statement 82-5 is rescinded and Policy Statement 99 08: is issued.

The policy of the Department of Health Services with regard to abortions is as follows: Abortion is covered by the Medi-Cal program as a physician service. Medical justification and prior authorization for abortion is not required. However, inpatient hospitalization for the performance of an abortion does require prior authorization under the same criteria as other medical procedures as set forth in Title 22 CCR Section 51327.



David Mitchell
Medi-Cal Benefits Branch