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SUBJECT Acupuncturist Enrollment in the Medical Assistance Program		BY  Sally A. Kozak, Acting Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at:
http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994.

PURPOSE:

This bulletin is to inform providers that acupuncturists may enroll in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program to allow them to participate in managed care networks within the managed care delivery system. This bulletin also provides information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to acupuncturists seeking to enroll in the MA Program to render services under the MA managed care delivery system. Questions pertaining to payment for services rendered under the managed care delivery system should be directed to the appropriate managed care organization (MCO).

BACKGROUND:

Acupuncture is a form of alternative medicine and is most often used for pain relief in combination with other forms of treatment. The majority of people who receive acupuncture do so for musculoskeletal problems including: migraines, temporomandibular joint pain, shoulder stiffness, low back pain, or knee pain upon referral by their physician, dentist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or podiatrist.

An acupuncturist is a person, licensed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine, who has completed an acupuncture education program which includes a course in needle

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

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

sterilization techniques and has obtained a passing grade on an acupuncture examination or has been certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). If the NCCAOM examination was not taken in English, the applicant must also secure a score of 550 on the test of English as a Foreign Language.

Information on acupuncturists may be obtained from the Department of State licensing regulations at 49 Pa.Code Chapter 18. State Board of Medicine – Practitioners Other Than Medical Doctors, Subchapter B. Registration and Practice of Acupuncturists and Practitioners of Oriental Medicine, which may be viewed by accessing the following website link: <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter18/subchapBtoc.html>.

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with federal Medicaid requirements at 42 CFR §§ 438.602(b) and 438.608(b), relating to state responsibilities and program integrity requirements under the contract, in regards to the screening, enrollment and revalidation of providers, a provider must be enrolled in the MA Program as a condition of being enrolled in a managed care network. Acupuncturists who wish to participate as MCO network providers to render services to MA beneficiaries under the managed care delivery system must be enrolled in the MA Program.

Acupuncture services are not within the scope of covered benefits for MA beneficiaries under the Fee-for-Service delivery system; therefore, the Department is not enrolling acupuncturists to participate in and bill for services under the Fee-for-Service delivery system. However, MCOs under the MA managed care delivery system have the option to provide additional services to MA beneficiaries that are not available under the Fee-for-Service delivery system.

PROCEDURE:

The Department will enroll licensed acupuncturists to provide services within their scope of practice under the MA managed care delivery system. Acupuncturists will be enrolled as Mid-Level Practitioners with an acupuncture specialty as follows:

Provider Type	Specialty Code	Specialty Code Description
10	141	Acupuncturist

Acupuncturists are not currently able to use the online application and must submit a paper application. Acupuncturists are to download and complete the enrollment application and additional requirements for Provider Type 10 - Midlevel Practitioners. Acupuncturists may submit their completed applications and required documents in one of the three following ways:

- Email: Ra-ProvApp@pa.gov
- Fax: 717-265-8284

- Mail: DHS Enrollment Unit
P.O. Box 8045
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8045

Information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application may be viewed by accessing the Enrollment Information page on the Department's website at the following link: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994.