

Pharmacy instructions altered for tornado-affected areas



Following severe weather and tornadoes that hit Mississippi this past weekend, Gov. Phil Bryant has authorized a State of Emergency to provide resources to aid in recovery efforts. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has reported extensive damage caused by a tornado in Forrest County, in addition to other southern regions such as the cities of Hattiesburg and Petal.

Effective Jan. 21, 2017, and throughout the duration of a State of Emergency, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid's (DOM) Office of Pharmacy has specific emergency billing directions for beneficiary claims, for those beneficiaries residing in affected areas: Forrest, Lamar, Perry, Marion and Jones counties.

Fee-for-service Medicaid beneficiaries

During an officially declared State of Emergency, pharmacists must enter a value of '13-Payor Recognized Emergency' in NCPDP Field '420-DK' when it is necessary to override the following service limit edits:

- 2 Brand/5 Prescription Limit
- Early Refill

Please note, when a State of Emergency is declared, the fields noted above will be opened for the specified time period.

Pharmacy providers are advised to use professional judgment in emergency situations. DOM may conduct audits after such events to ensure appropriate care was taken in dispensing medications for affected beneficiaries.

Providers and beneficiaries who are not residing and/or receiving care in an evacuation area, must have documentation on file to justify rationale for early/excess prescription fills. Medicaid funds may be recouped if supporting documentation is not found.

Coordinated care beneficiaries (MississippiCAN)

Beneficiaries enrolled in our coordinated care program, MississippiCAN, should contact their coordinated care organization for assistance.

- Magnolia Health: Call the Envolve Help Desk for overrides of service limits toll-free at 800-460-8988
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan: Call the OptumRx's Help Desk for overrides of service limits toll-free at 877-305-8952

Contact Information

All inquiries made by the news media should be directed to Erin Barham, deputy administrator for communications at erin.barham@medicaid.ms.com, or Matt Westerfield, associate communications officer, at matt.westerfield@medicaid.ms.com.

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Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an email message to: erin.barham@medicaid.ms.gov.

About Mississippi Division of Medicaid

Medicaid is a state and federal program created by the Social Security Amendments of 1965, authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, to provide health coverage for eligible, low income populations. In 1969, Medicaid was enacted by the Mississippi Legislature. All 50 states, five territories of the United States and District of Columbia participate in this voluntary matching program. The mission of the Mississippi Division of Medicaid is to responsibly provide access to quality health coverage for vulnerable Mississippians, by conducting operations with accountability, consistency and respect.