

October 16, 2009

This letter is being sent to you because you currently receive Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) benefits from the Department of Social and Health Services. Beginning November 1, 2009 the medical services you can receive under the AEM program will change. You have been identified as a person who has had an organ transplant and may be receiving dialysis for kidney disease.

***What is changing?***

Effective 11/1/2009, the medical services covered under this program will change to comply with Federal law and a state legislative mandate. The only services the department will now pay for under your current certification for eligibility are those services required to care for the transplanted organ and your kidney disease, if you have this condition and are receiving dialysis. You are being provided this coverage under the state –funded alien medical health care program.

***What medical services can I receive under AEM?***

Effective 11/1/2009, the department will only pay for the following services, as needed to treat the transplanted organ and your kidney disease, if you have this disease and are receiving dialysis:

- Physician and ARNP services
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital care;
- Dialysis;
- Surgical procedures and care; excluding an organ transplant
- Office or clinic based care;
- Pharmacy services, including your anti-rejection medication(s);
- Laboratory, x-ray or other diagnostic studies;
- Oxygen services;
- Respiratory and Intravenous (IV) therapy;
- Anesthesia services;
- Hospice services;
- Home health services, limited to two visits;
- Durable and non durable medical equipment;
- Non-emergency transportation; and
- Interpretative services;

Some of these services may require prior authorization.

***What medical services can I no longer receive under AEM?***

Effective 11/1/2009, treatment of any other health care condition under this program is not paid for.

Also the department will no longer pay for these services:

- Services by any healthcare professional provided to treat a condition not related to, or required to, treat the transplanted organ and kidney disease, if you have that condition and are receiving dialysis;
- Organ transplants and related services, except as already described above;
- Health department services;
- School-based services;
- Personal care services;
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy services;
- Audiology services;
- Neuro-developmental services;
- Waiver services;
- Nursing facility services;
- Home health services, more than two visits;
- Vision services;
- Hearing services;
- Dental services, unless prior authorized and directly related to dialysis or cancer treatment;
- Mental health services;
- Podiatry services;
- Substance abuse services;
- Smoking cessation services;

***How does this affect me?***

If you are currently receiving **any** health care service(s) that is not required to treat your transplanted organ and kidney disease, if you have this condition and are being treated with dialysis, the department will no longer pay for these service(s) after 11/1/2009.

If you are currently receiving an authorized service that is listed above, the department will continue to pay for this service until the authorization period ends.

Your eligibility for coverage will need to be re-certified yearly.

If needed, you may apply for coverage for other health care services:

Under the new Alien Emergency Medical Program, you may apply for coverage if you require emergency treatment to treat and emergency condition, not related to your transplanted organ and kidney disease, if you have that condition and are being treated with dialysis, in the hospital setting: emergency room, emergency outpatient surgery, or an emergency inpatient admission.

If you require placement in a nursing home you may also apply for alien medical services under the Long Term Care program.

If you receive a service not needed to treat your transplanted organ or kidney disease, if you have that condition and are receiving dialysis your provider may bill you for the service.

If you disagree with any of our decisions, you may ask to have the case reviewed. You can also ask for an administrative hearing. Administrative hearing rights are included in this letter.

For more detail information see WAC 388-438-0110 and WAC 388-438-0120.

If you have questions call please call our Medical Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-562-3022, available 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additional information is available at the HRSA Web site at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov>.